

## Mr Wilson defers devolution for more than a year

to allow the devolution of Westminster's powers to and Welsh assemblies will be introduced soon, the Government announced yesterday in the Speech, but, Mr Wilson

## 'eat debate' to accompany Bill

Wood told the Commons, any Bill will not be carried until the parliamentary session beginning next November. He said there must be "an extended debate" in and outside Parliament.

beginning of the next parliamentary session, with whatever amendment was thought right after the national debate, so that it could proceed to Royal Assent with all reasonable speed, having regard to the magnitude and importance of its constitutional provisions.

In other words, Cabinet sceptics about previous legislation have prevailed.

As a consequence the Government's business managers are relieved of a burden of about 10 parliamentary weeks, a third of a normal parliamentary session, spent on devolution in the Commons, and can offer in the Queen's Speech a normal ration of about 25 Bills. In the end there will be between 60 and 70 Government Bills, according to the sessional average.

Until Mr Short's White Paper on devolution comes to hand next week there is no certainty how backbenchers on both sides of the Commons will respond. But there is no doubt that the House of Commons will be a place of lively and heated debate, and there is little likelihood that the Government could get a devolution Bill through quickly without bringing it under a special order of business, with a constitutional Bill of such portentous importance.

In delaying the devolution legislation to permit a national debate Mr Wilson found himself in agreement with Mrs Thatcher, the Opposition leader. Opening the frontbench debate, she had for virtually the first time revealed her own disquiet or even scepticism. She demanded a thorough discussion that would involve not only the Scots and the Welsh but also the English, who were equally citizens of the United Kingdom.

When Mrs Ewing, Scottish National Party MP for Moray and Nairn, stormed out of the House during her speech, Mrs Thatcher remarked: "I am very disappointed indeed that some of our Scottish members do not think a thorough debate is necessary."

Outside the Chamber Mrs Ewing said: "The talking has been going on since 1957, and the people of Scotland expected a definite commitment to legislation this session. In Scotland it will be seen that both Labour and Conservative parties are wriggling out of their manifesto commitments."

Privately, in their anger and disappointment, Scottish National Party MPs were saying that the betrayal would lead to an intensified campaign for complete independence of Scotland from Westminster.

When it came to the point Mr Wilson and the Cabinet found that a devolution Bill would be unseasonable, in terms of parliamentary time and fundamental urgency, during the new session. What matters most is the economy: the



The Queen on her way to the state opening of Parliament yesterday.

## SNP group demands election soon

By Our Political Staff

The Scottish National Party's 11 MPs last night demanded a general election as soon as possible because the Government was not serious about devolution. They said they would seek an opportunity to help to defeat the Government in an attempt to force a general election.

While they were not totally opposed to the government proposals in the Queen's Speech, they would vote against anything "manifestly not in our own interests".

The left-wing Tribune group of Labour MPs last night tabled an amendment to the Queen's Speech regretting that no mention was made of measures adequate to reduce the level of employment substantially.

The group wants measures to reflate the economy, cut imports by £3,000m in the coming year by selective physical import regulations, the mobilization of Britain's privately held overseas portfolio investments, and control of the investment of capital overseas to protect foreign reserves.

The amendment also rejects all cuts in essential public expenditure, except real cuts in defence expenditure, and calls for the use of the 'National Enterprise Board, planning agreements and the extension of public ownership and control to increase industrial investment.

Six Labour backbenchers, members of the Tribune group, also tabled an amendment regretting that the Government had not introduced legislative proposals to abolish the House of Lords. They were: Mr Robert Crier (Kilgobbin), Mr Arthur Lazenby (City of Westminster, Paddington), Mr Tom Torney (Bradford, South), Mr Stanley Thorne (Preston, South), Miss Josephine Richardson (Barking), and Mr Max Madden (Sowerby).

## Police want change in 'soft' policies

Policemen are to use their contact with the public to try to bring about a change in penal policies that they regard as too soft. They know that many of their ideas will clash with those of Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, and that the campaign might be seen as having a political connotation. Mr Leslie Mole, chairman of the Police Federation, said they had to convince community groups that the country had gone too far with the liberal, lenient approach.

## Letter bombs in Australia

A letter-bomb addressed to Mr Ejelke-Petersen, Premier of Queensland, exploded in his offices in Brisbane yesterday injuring two clerks. Another bomb addressed to Mr Fraser, the caretaker federal Prime Minister, was found by police in a government building in Canberra and defused. No one was injured.

## Wider use of social service

The community service scheme, in which offenders do unpaid work instead of going to prison, is to be extended to 12 new areas in England and Wales from December 1. They are: Avon, Bedfordshire, Cleveland, Gloucestershire, south-east London, Norfolk, Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex, Wiltshire, North Yorkshire, and North Wales.

## PO orders soon for £50m network

The Post Office is about to place orders for development of System X, the new telecommunications network planned for the 1980s. About a dozen contracts are involved and the total cost of the project is expected to exceed £50m.

## Wales qualify

Wales beat Austria 1-0 and qualified for the quarter-final round of the European championship last night. England drew 1-1 with Portugal and will qualify only if Czechoslovakia do not win in Cyprus.

## Nagaland peace

Naga underground leaders have reached a peace agreement with the Indian government and accepted that Nagaland is an integral part of India.

## FBI is accused

The Federal Bureau of Investigation tried to discredit Dr Martin Luther King, the American civil rights leader, and in 1964 tried to get him to commit suicide, according to evidence given to a Senate committee investigating intelligence agencies.

## Booker Prize

Mrs Ruth Praver Jhabvala, a native of Poland married to an Indian living in Delhi, is the winner of the 1975 Booker Prize for fiction with her novel, *Heat and Dust*.

## Restaurants' for bomberantes

Reporter of patrolling groups to guard restaurants in a list of 15 restaurants in London. The Association of Restaurants in London, which met yesterday to offer a big reward for information leading to conviction of a bomber, said the police had no association not to give of the reward. The chairman of the association said: "There are a number of restaurants which are being visited by the police. We are in touch with the police officer at their stations and to ask the premises to take extra precautions, latest immediately, I suggest for a series of a street association to watch out for and provide a service."

## Slowdown in pace of pay rises confirmed

By Melvyn Westlake

The slowdown in the underlying pace of pay increases is strongly confirmed by figures published yesterday by the Department of Employment.

At the same time, it appears that the rate of pay increases in the United Kingdom's 22 million workforce have now settled for increases within the Government's pay policy limiting increases to a maximum of 6.5 per cent.

The official index of earnings which most closely reflects the degree of success for the Government's policy, rose 1.6 per cent in September.

Although this was greater than the 1 per cent rise in August, more than half of the latest increase was accounted for by lump-sum back payments to British Rail employees in respect of a settlement agreed before the 6.5 per cent policy came into effect on August 1.

Even so, September was the fifth consecutive month in which the rate of pay increases had shown a decline over the preceding 12 months.

The Department of Employment's earnings index covers some seven million people in industry and services, and in addition to negotiated pay rates it includes overtime payments like bonuses and overwork.

Significantly, in the two months since the pay policy came into effect earnings have risen at an annual rate of some 16.9 per cent, compared with an annual rate of increase of about 35.5 per cent in the previous three months of 1974.

However, Whitehall officials are being distinctly cautious about this apparent halving in the pace of earnings growth.

The latest figures are traditionally quiet and there are a number of pay settlements, notably an interim award to engineers and a rise for one million local authority manual workers, which have still to be reflected in the index.

But the general picture is supported by the separate and narrower index for basic rates. These figures, covering 14 million manual workers, but monitoring only the minimum rates established under national collective agreements, rose 0.5 per cent in October (information for basic rates is always one month ahead of that for earnings).

The October rise in basic rates was higher than in the previous month, at just under 0.3 per cent, but with earnings, there has been a progressive decline in the rise when taken over the preceding 12 months. On this measure the rise was back to levels not seen since last October.

Indeed, over the last three months basic rates appear to have been rising at an annual rate of little more than 5 per cent.

Both Mr Michael Foot, the Employment Secretary, and Mr Denis Healey, the Chancellor, have emphasized recently that the Government's policy, covering two million people, notified since August 1, have all been settled within the terms of the pay policy.

It seems certain that for the next several months the rate of pay increases will rise more slowly than prices and that this will continue until lower wages begin to influence the level of price increases.

## Skippers demand Navy protection

By Hugh Clayton

British trawler skippers told the Government yesterday that they would leave Icelandic waters in three days unless they were protected by the Royal Navy.

The skippers' message was not made public in London until it had been intercepted by the Icelandic coastguard, who relayed it to news agencies. The British Government has implied all sectors of the industry to avoid making provocative statements, and repeated its appeal when four ministers met the Trawler Industry Liaison Committee yesterday morning.

The British Trawlers' Federation, which represents shipowners, said that it was not associated with the skippers' message. "We would describe it as an expression of concern rather than an ultimatum," a spokesman said.

The Icelandic were trying to "intimidate and undermine the morale of our fishers," he added.

The Foreign Office said that Mr Kenneth East, the British Ambassador in Reykjavik, had delivered a protest note to the Government there because an Icelandic vessel had cut the wires of the British trawler *St Giles* as it fished within the disputed 200-mile limit.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food called on the skippers to join four unarmed protection vessels that were making for a point south-east of Iceland under civilian command. They included the tug *Lloydsman*, under Mr Norman Storey, who was master when the vessel was similarly employed in the last "cod war".

Mr Peart, the Minister, said after the hour-long meeting with the industry: "They were very pleased with the way we conducted the negotiations."

Traders gave a warning that if the skippers did pull out, the price of fresh fish would be forced up. The worst-affected would be owners of fish and chip shops, who use more than half of British catches from Icelandic waters.

Mr Peter Worthington, secretary of the National Federation of Fish Friers, said: "The immediate implication would be more expensive fish."

Mr Deeds Bradford, secretary of the National Federation of Fishmongers, said last night that the market would not be affected for five or six days, if the trawlers pulled out "it will affect prices very much after that."

Dan van der Vat writes from Bonn: West Germany and Iceland have agreed to terms on the general outline of a new fisheries agreement which will sharply reduce the scale of the German catch in Icelandic waters.

Although final details were still being worked out, it seems the West Germans are settling for a total annual catch of between 50,000 and 60,000 tons within the disputed 200-mile limit. This represents about one third of the West German total annual catch before Iceland extended its limits to 50 miles three years ago.

Iceland's fear, page 5  
Dispute nobody wants, page 23

## Family called to General Franco's bedside

Madrid, Nov 19.—General Franco's doctors were reported tonight to be expecting his death within hours. His wife and daughter and his private chaplain were called to his bedside.

A high government source said brain activity had virtually ceased.

A medical bulletin reported that doctors were applying only "necessary medical treatment" that would not produce physical suffering. —AP and Reuters.

## Beirut gunmen kill British businessman but wife escapes hail of bullets

From Paul Martin

Beirut, Nov 19

A British businessman was shot dead today by a band of armed men who held up his car near a Palestinian refugee camp on the mountain road out of Beirut. His wife, who was driving the car, was spared by reversing out of a hail of machine gun fire with her mortally wounded husband at her side.

The dead man was Mr Edwin Burbridge, aged 55, of Croydon, Surrey, who was returning to his mountain home with his wife Margaret after a shopping trip to Beirut.

An armed gang of about 16 men, young and small boys stopped the car at gunpoint on the Beirut Meri road just past the Tal Zaatar refugee camp. This has been the scene of some of the bitterest fighting in the Beirut street war.

The gunmen surrounded the car and began to kick it and hit it with rifle butts. One of the gunmen shouted: "Americans, Americans!" and a burst of sub-machine gun fire hit Mr Burbridge. As the bullets poured into the passenger side of the car, Mrs Burbridge hastily reversed down the mountain road.

Mrs Burbridge sped through the near-deserted streets in this front-line area of the Beirut suburbs to get her husband to hospital. He was dead on arrival. Mr Burbridge was the second British resident of Lebanon to fall victim in the civil conflict. In the earlier incident a British engineer was murdered and his woman companion raped by armed men who stopped their car near Beirut airport.

According to British consular officials, the attackers did not ask the Burbridges for their passports or believe that it was assumed they were American and that Mr Burbridge was killed because of this.

Mrs Burbridge told consular officials that the gunmen appeared to be walking across the road when they spotted the car, hailing it down menacingly with their automatic weapons.

The Tal Zaatar refugee camp is subjected to virtual siege from right-wing Phalangist positions which dominate all access roads to it.

Mr Burbridge, who worked for Middle East Industrial Relations Consultants, an oil consulting firm, lived with his family at Ain Saadeh, a village on the way to the mountain resort of Beirut Meri. He and his wife had made the journey to Beirut to buy some furniture. The couple have two sons and a five-year-old daughter.

## Days pact with France on IMF accord

Emery Nov 19

US Economics Correspondent

Washington, Nov 19

President Ford today refused to support any congressional effort to rescue New York City from the brink of bankruptcy. In a statement he said merely that he would review the situation again next week and that Congress should continue to press ahead with changes in the bankruptcy laws that would apply to New York City if it was forced to default on its debt repayments.

Mr Ford clearly intended to increase the pressure on the New York authorities to raise taxes and make other steps to reorganize their finances. His statement disappointed many congressmen and New York officials. It forced the House of Representatives to postpone indefinitely action on a Bill to grant federal government loan guarantees to the city.

Time is now running out fast for New York. At the moment the city is still not sure where it will get the cash to pay its bills and the wages of its employees next week or the week after. Mr Hugh Carey, the Governor of New York State, believes the situation is desperate. He said in a television interview last night that if

## President Ford turns down New York's pleas again

From Frank Vogl

US Economics Correspondent

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## Couve mission under way

From Our Own Correspondent

Beirut, Nov 19

M Couve de Murville, the former French Prime Minister, today launched his peace mission to Lebanon against a background of continued street clashes and political deadlock.

As he went into his first round of talks with Lebanese leaders, he denied that it was his aim to mediate in the seven-month-old civil conflict. "The solution is in the hands of the Lebanese alone," he said.

It is widely believed here that the French initiative to try to end the violence carries the full weight of the United States and France's European partners. Traditional Franco-Lebanese ties ensure that, at the very least, all sides will be receptive.

Spontaneous fighting continued today after the sharp deterioration over the past 48 hours. Last night saw one of the heaviest bouts of fighting since the truce of two weeks ago.

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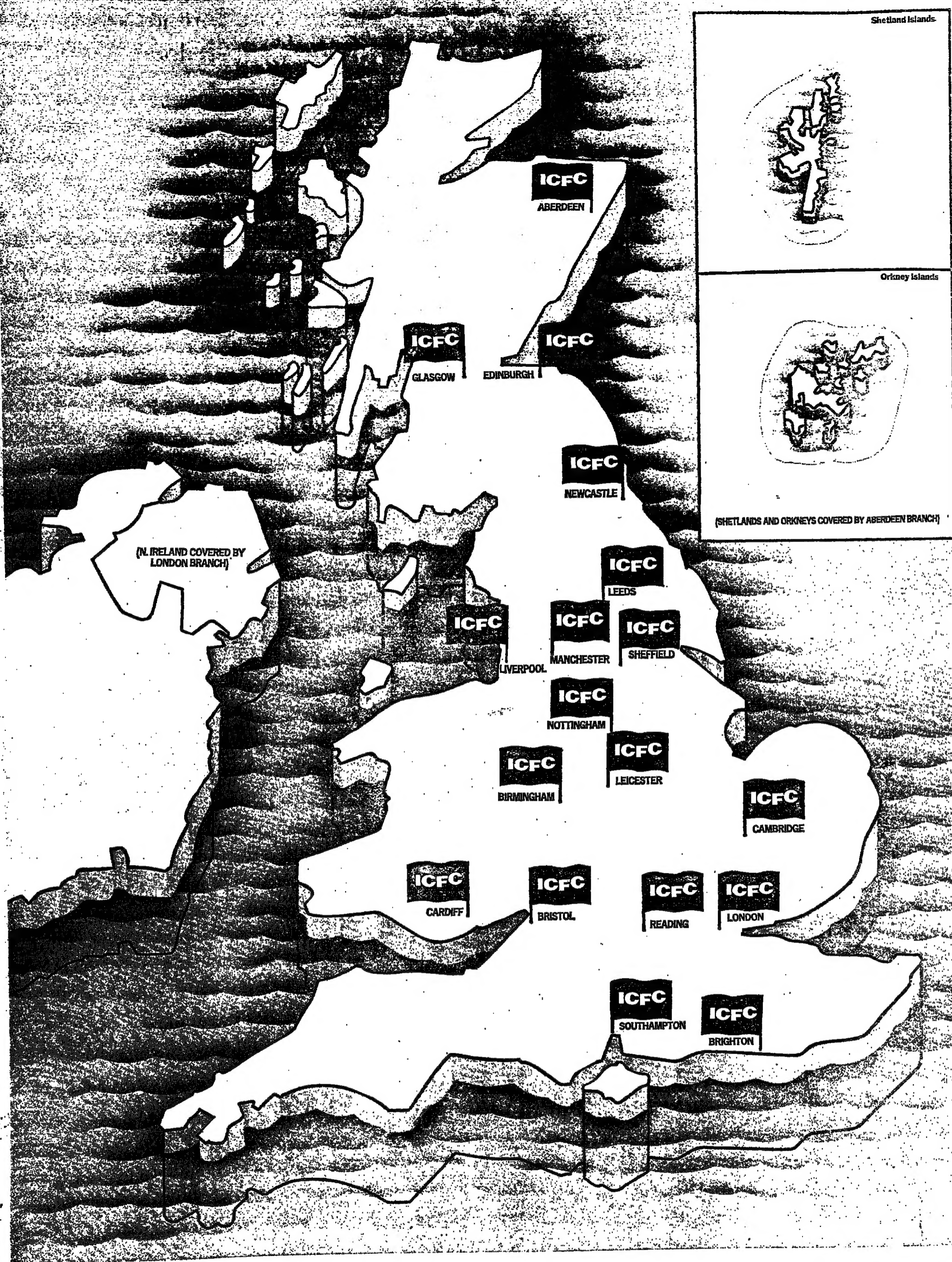
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Mr. John Stephenson will join Finance at the Forestry Commission on January 1 in succession to Mr. P. Nicholls.

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## HOME NEWS

## Community service scheme extended to cover 12 new areas

By a Staff Reporter

A big extension of the community service scheme, in which offenders do unpaid work for the community instead of going to prison, is to come into effect from December 1. From that date the scheme will be available in 49 of the 56 probation and after-care areas in England and Wales, instead of 37 as at present.

The 12 new areas are Avon, Bedfordshire, Cleveland, Gloucestershire, south-east London, Norfolk, Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex, Wiltshire, North Yorkshire, and North Wales.

The scheme does not always apply throughout an area, and it is being extended within the following areas that have such a system: Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Hereford

and Worcester, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, north-east London, Greater Manchester, Middlesex, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Warwickshire, West Yorkshire, and South Glamorgan.

Offenders must be aged at least 17 and have committed an offence for which they could be imprisoned, and must give consent to be eligible for a community service order. Between 40 and 240 hours' work has to be carried out in the offender's spare time within 12 months.

Tasks include carpentry, painting and decorating and gardening for old and disabled people, footpath clearance, helping in youth clubs, building and helping to run adventure playgrounds, and providing help in hospitals.

## 'Architectural profession needs independent inquiry'

By a Staff Reporter

An independent committee to inquire into the architectural profession is called for in this week's issue of *The Architects' Journal*. It says it should be established by the Government along the lines of the Morrison Committee, which investigated the General Medical Council, and should have a lay majority.

The author of the article is Mr Malcolm MacEwan, who criticised many aspects of the profession in a book, *Crisis in Architecture*, published last year. He suggests that the committee should inquire into the regulation of the profession, its standards of competence, the

reform of the Architects' Registration Council, and the responsibilities of the council and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

"The health of the architectural profession is, or should be, of the greatest concern to government," he writes. Architects are responsible for a major slice of the nation's capital investment programme. "The absurd thing is that the Government is already spending a lot of money and compelling the profession to spend a lot of its money, on a useless inquiry by the Monopolies Commission inspired by the dogmatic view that free competition is the best guarantor of quality."

Change in powers being viewed with mixed feelings in local government circles north of the border

## Things that Scotland could lose by having assembly

By Roger Berthoud

Public servants in Scotland await the White Paper on devolution, expected soon, with mixed emotions. Broadly speaking, they see some political advantages in being able to grapple at first hand with Scottish legislators in a Scottish assembly concerned with Scottish, not United Kingdom, priorities. But at the administrative level, where there is already a great degree of devolution through the Secretary of State for Scotland and the five departments of the Scottish Office, fears of upheaval are strong, particularly in local government.

The Secretary for Scotland and the Scottish Office were created in 1885. They took broadly their present form when the Scottish Office was transferred to Edinburgh in 1939.

The essence of devolution is expected to be the transfer to an elected Scottish assembly of legislative powers in the fields administered by the 9,650 civil servants of the Scottish Office and its five main departments of education, agriculture and fisheries, development, econo-

mic planning, and home and health. They include criminal law, electricity, environmental services, Highlands and Islands development, housing, local government, police, prison and fire services, roads, social work, sport and the arts, and town and country planning.

Since all those come under the Secretary of State for Scotland, the latter (at present Mr William Ross) wields wide authority and patronage than his Cabinet colleagues, albeit over only 5,200,000 people. Separate legislation relating to Scotland only, frequently required by Scotland's separate legal system, is at present debated by the Scottish Grand Committee, which includes Scotland's 71 MPs.

The main practical objection to the present system is that United Kingdom legislation naturally provides for the needs of the majority, and the majority live in England. Laws are framed and shaped in London, and London drains Scotland of many of her potential decision-makers. This is a general Scottish complaint, and

makes for more human relationships, and promotes both public participation and more personal links between the Scottish Office and regional governments in many fields.

The Scottish wing of the British Medical Association feels it has a friendlier, more intimate relationship with the Scottish Home and Health Department than does its London counterpart with Mrs Corder's Goliath.

Scotland's own National Health Service Act gives a measure of freedom in NHS regulations. Doctors, aware that money in this case flows from south to north, do not want to negotiate separate terms of service. Dr Derek Buchanan of the Scottish BMA says:

On the basis of spending, Scotland has had a good deal of the NHS's official admissions health administration is less tortuously complex: last year's reorganization left out one layer at regional level between the districts and the area health boards, of which Scotland has 15. Against that there is a feeling of having to await development of a new system of general Scottish complaint, and

produces many frustrations, aggravated by such irrelevant English disputes as the pay-bed issue (Scotland has only some two dozen such beds).

In education, devolution threatens to deepen the present division between Scotland's schools, at present administered by the new regional authorities, and the universities. The latter answer to the Department of Education in London, cherish their links with the United Kingdom, especially in such expensive fields as research, and have a deep fear of creeping parochialism.

Mr John Pollock, secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland (the teachers' union) fears that a Scottish assembly, with, as expected, no real powers over universities, will find it hard to take decisions affecting higher and further education as a whole. The EIS would like to see the whole system come under the same body.

In no field is the devolution White Paper awaited with more concern than in Scottish local government, whose officials fear Westminster's enactments with a cherished measure

of independence, though answerable to the Secretary of State. The 12 new regional and island authorities assumed their functions only this summer, and are just getting "bedded down", as Mr Graham Speirs, secretary of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities put it.

Devolution might not greatly change the relationship of local to central government, he thinks. But it could give the assembly the power to change the system yet again, denuding local authorities of certain powers and arrogating them to itself.

It is symptomatic that administrative devolution has been weakest and most confused in the area where legislative devolution is also expected to be least satisfying to nationalist sentiment: control over the Scottish economy.

In the past 12 months there has been some modest strengthening of the duties of the Scottish Economic Planning Department, which was added to the Scottish Office only in 1973. Some powers involving selective regional assistance and support for factory building

have been transferred from the Department of Industry. The SED is to assume administrative responsibility for the Scottish Development Agency, due to be set up in December to tackle industrial decline and promote new enterprises. The SDA will be taking over the Scottish Industrial Estates Corporation and the Small Industries Council, but will have less muscle than the London-based National Enterprise Board.

The Scottish Nationalists are not alone in wanting some real devolution in the economic sphere, to which they would add fiscal powers and some immediate control over North Sea oil and fisheries. The non-party, non-government Scottish Council (for Development and Industry) has called Britain "arguably the most industrially centralized country in the world".

In the national interest London must, it believes, surrender its monopoly of industrial authority. The signs are that the Government will shake the unity of the United Kingdom to keep the real control over Scotland's destiny in London.

## Singer says he tried to miss woman

From Our Correspondent

Edinburgh  
Leslie McKeown, aged 20, lead singer with the Bay City Rollers pop group, said at his trial at Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday that three times he tried to drive round a woman as she was crossing from the centre lane of Corstorphine Road on May 29.

He said the woman, Mrs Euphemia Clunie, aged 70, changed direction three times. When she changed her mind a fourth time and started towards the pavement "I actually panicked and put my wheel to the left. I did not realize I had hit her, as I did not feel any impact."

He said that if she had not changed her direction for the fourth time there would have been no accident. Afterwards he was taken into a house and given a cup of tea. "I was crying and shaking like... I was speaking about anything," he added. He said he was travelling about 40 mph before the accident.

He has pleaded not guilty to causing the death of Mrs Clunie by reckless and dangerous driving, or alternatively of driving without due care and attention and causing his car to collide with her.

Asked by Mr Ian Kirkwood, for the defence, if he could have braked earlier, Mr McKeown replied that he could have if it had been necessary. The woman had time to cross the road when he first saw her. The trial continues today.

## Train driver on death charges

Six charges of manslaughter have been laid against the driver of the London to Glasgow mail express that crashed at Nunatun, Warwickshire, in June, with the loss of six lives. British Rail said yesterday that Mr John McKay, of Watford, was to appear before the magistrates in Nunatun early next year.



Removal decree: The Roman Catholic Bishop of Northampton, Mr Grant, said yesterday that he would oppose a decree of removal today to Father Oswald Baker (above), parish priest at Downham Market, Norfolk, who has twice been asked to resign for continuing to say the Tridentine Mass. He refused to say the new Mass in English.

## Kidnapper of girl jailed for 12 years

Brian Anderton, a fish-and-chip shop owner, who kidnapped the daughter of a £500,000 football pools winner, was jailed at Manchester Crown Court yesterday for 12 years. Mr Anderton, aged 39, of Bury New Road, Whitefield, Manchester, was also convicted of stealing the girl, Vanessa Carr, aged five, by fraud; demanding a £100,000 ransom from her father; stealing documents to create a false identity; and taking a car, used in the kidnapping, without authority.

The girl was found unharmed in an abandoned car after a police chase. Mr Anderton was arrested in near by playing fields.

Mr Anderton told the jury that he acted under duress in taking the girl, saying that a telephone caller had his son, aged 11.

After jailing Mr Anderton, Mr Justice Jupp praised the public and police for their efforts that led to the girl being found and to Mr Anderton's arrest.

He said: "This case has clearly shown what vigilance by members of the public, efficiency by the police, and the care in collecting clues and informing the police at once can do in putting an end to crimes of a terrorist nature."

The jury heard how eight schoolchildren collected items that Mr Anderton threw away after he had abandoned the car, its engine still running, with the girl inside.

## Oil region will ask for higher grant

From Ronald Faux

Aberdeen  
The Grampian region, which centres on the oil capital of Aberdeen, is to seek a fourfold increase in the special expenses grant paid by the Government to local authorities providing facilities for the oil industry. This year the region expects to spend more than £11.5m on extra roads, new housing, bigger schools, building drains and general infrastructure required by the North Sea oil development.

To help to offset costs, the Government paid £750,000, which, the region calculates, has cost the ratepayers heavily. Next year the expenditure by the Grampian council for oil-related activities is likely to rise to £17.7m in capital and revenue costs and the Grampian council is looking towards the Government for up to £3m in extra support grants.

Mr Tom Carter, director of finance for the region, said: "We acknowledge that some of the next year's forecast will be

## Protest over second-home trend

From Trevor Fishlock

Cardiff

Members of the Welsh Language Society occupied a room in the Welsh Office in Cardiff yesterday in a demonstration against the spread of second-home ownership in rural Wales.

Thirteen demonstrators, who had hoped to see the Secretary of State for Wales, Mr John Gwynne, at the Welsh Office, got past security staff at the main entrance, took over an office on the first floor, and stayed there for about three hours. They complained that young people were being priced out of houses in the Welsh-speaking areas.

The Welsh language issue, so often in the headlines a few

years ago, may be on the boil again.

This year a new move was made for leadership of the campaign to buy and restore homes for young people in rural Wales, began to spread the idea that the strongly Welsh-speaking areas, the Fro Gymraeg, should be kept Welsh-speaking at all costs.

In Adfer's view, the bilingual approach of the Welsh Language Society is too soft and optimistic. It advocates a hard-line attitude in the Fro Gymraeg with all social, commercial, and official business conducted in Welsh.

The group wants progress towards a Welsh monoglot

society. It believes that the only true Welshman is a Welsh-speaking one.

Members of the Welsh Language Society see danger in the spread of Adfer's ideas. They believe the group is essentially pessimistic, desperate, and anti-English. They feel that those who are against the language would be pleased to see Welsh confined to ever-shrinking "reservations". They disapprove of the assertion that only Welsh-speakers are truly Welsh.

Joined by Adfer's threat, the society has become more active. Its members are convinced that leadership of language campaigning must remain with them.

## Christine Keeler's husband has £40,000 deficiency

Miss Christine Keeler, who

figured in the 1963 John Profumo scandal, sat in London Bankruptcy Court yesterday as her husband, Mr Anthony Sidney Platt, a businessman, disclosed a £40,000 deficiency. He was made bankrupt on his wife's petition an day before the court for failing to attend his public examination last February.

Mr Platt, aged 36, of Harpall Cottage, Epsom, Surrey, said he stayed in France with friends after becoming "emotionally stretched" because of domestic matters.

Questioned by Mr James Tye, official receiver, he said he had been a director of a family metal company later taken over by another firm. In January, 1970, he was worth at least

£320,000; now his deficiency exceeded £40,000.

He disclosed debts of £69,851 and assets of £29,150. Miss Keeler, who sat at the back of the court, is a creditor on a claim for maintenance arrears. Asked the cause of his failure, Mr Platt said it was solely due to the court orders made against him for domestic matters. The final order in July, 1974, robbed him of "every single penny".

After being divorced from his first wife in June, 1973, he was ordered to pay her £12,000 in a lump sum and £7,000 a year less tax.

Later, on his application, the annual payment was reduced to £3,500 a year less tax. The maintenance order granted to his second wife from whom he separated in July, 1972, was £2,500 a year.

## Weather gives unexpected boost to farm output

By Hugh Clayton

Agricultural Correspondent

Farm output in England and Wales this year was likely to be 7 per cent lower than in 1974, the National Farmers' Union said yesterday. That was a more optimistic forecast than the reduction of "up to 10 per cent" which the union predicted during the summer.

"We have revised our estimate because of the weather and because the potato harvest is not going to be down as much as we expected", a spokesman said. The union had expected the potato harvest to be 35 per cent lower than a year ago but now predicted a cut of 30 per cent.

The improvement in grass growth in areas that were

parched during the summer had increased milk output in recent weeks and improved prospects for winter keep of livestock. The buoyancy of prices at summer-cattle sales reflected some measure of confidence among farmers.

The union said it welcomed the recognition by the Government yesterday of the need to raise food production. It hoped that the impact on inflation would involve recognition of the role of home food production in reducing import costs.

The union hoped the Government would recognize the adverse effect of severe capital taxation on food output and gave a firm pledge that it would continue to resist moves to abolish tied cottages.

## No abortion on demand Methodists told

Abortion on demand is rejected by a report published yesterday setting out the Methodist Church's provisional views on abortion.

It is intended as a discussion document for the Methodist Conference next year, and the introduction emphasizes that it does not express an official view of the Methodist Church.

The report, prepared by the family life subcommittee of the church's division of social responsibility, recommends that no woman should be given an abortion unless she has received "adequate counselling". Provision of such counselling should be a duty for those providing abortions, whether in the National Health Service or privately.

Abortion should not be permitted on a possibly viable foetus except when the mother's life is at risk. An abortion should be permitted after the twentieth week of pregnancy when a defective foetus has been diagnosed, if it was impossible to be sure that the foetus was imperfect earlier.

The risk of a child being born severely handicapped should remain a ground for abortion. The report finds the basic provisions of the 1967 Act acceptable.

## Water polluted 'to save export order'

A hundred trout were killed when a textile company deliberately put effluent into a mile and a half of fresh water alongside its mill rather than risk damaging an export order valued at £10,000. That was stated at Huddersfield Magistrates' Court yesterday by Thomas Birkenhead and Son Ltd, a cloth scouring company, of Lee Mills, Scholes, near Huddersfield, admitted two charges of poisoning the water and was fined £500, the maximum and ordered to pay £50 costs.

Mr John Bastow, prosecuting for the Yorkshire Water Authority, said the pollution occurred after a fault had developed in a pump used to remove waste from machines containing cloth for the order. The company had since agreed to pay for restocking the water with trout.

## In brief

## Protesters halt inquiry again

Protesters again thwarted the latest attempt to open a public inquiry into the Aire Valley trunk road scheme at Shipley West, Yorkshire, yesterday. Noisy scenes began as soon as the government inspector took his seat.

Twelve protesters who maintain that the inquiry is illegal and call it "an utter charade" were arrested on Tuesday. They were to convene at Shipley police station yesterday on summons returnable on January 12.

## Profit and loss

For the first time since it opened in 1967 the Adelphi Theatre at East Grinstead, Sussex, has made a profit. Tandridge and Mid Sussex district councils are being recommended not to renew their grants.

## Gliding for Prince

Prince Andrew, aged 15 second son of the Queen, will take a gliding course at RAF Milltown, Lissie, Morayshire, as part of his training with the Air Training Corps at Gordonstoun School.

## Cemetery sold for £1

Nuneham cemetery, Southwark, London, is being sold by its owners to the council for £1. Repairs to the walls of the cemetery, which are overgrown and damaged by vandals, will cost more than £40,000.

## Tories' choice

Mr Noel Kemp, aged 38, West of England organizer for Help the Aged, has been selected as a Conservative parliamentary candidate for Lewisham, West, held by Mr Christopher Price with a majority of 5,523.

## Mr Woodcock ill

Mr George Woodcock, aged 71, former general secretary of the TUC, was fairly comfortable in Gulson Hospital, Coventry, yesterday, after being taken to Coventry station on Tuesday night.

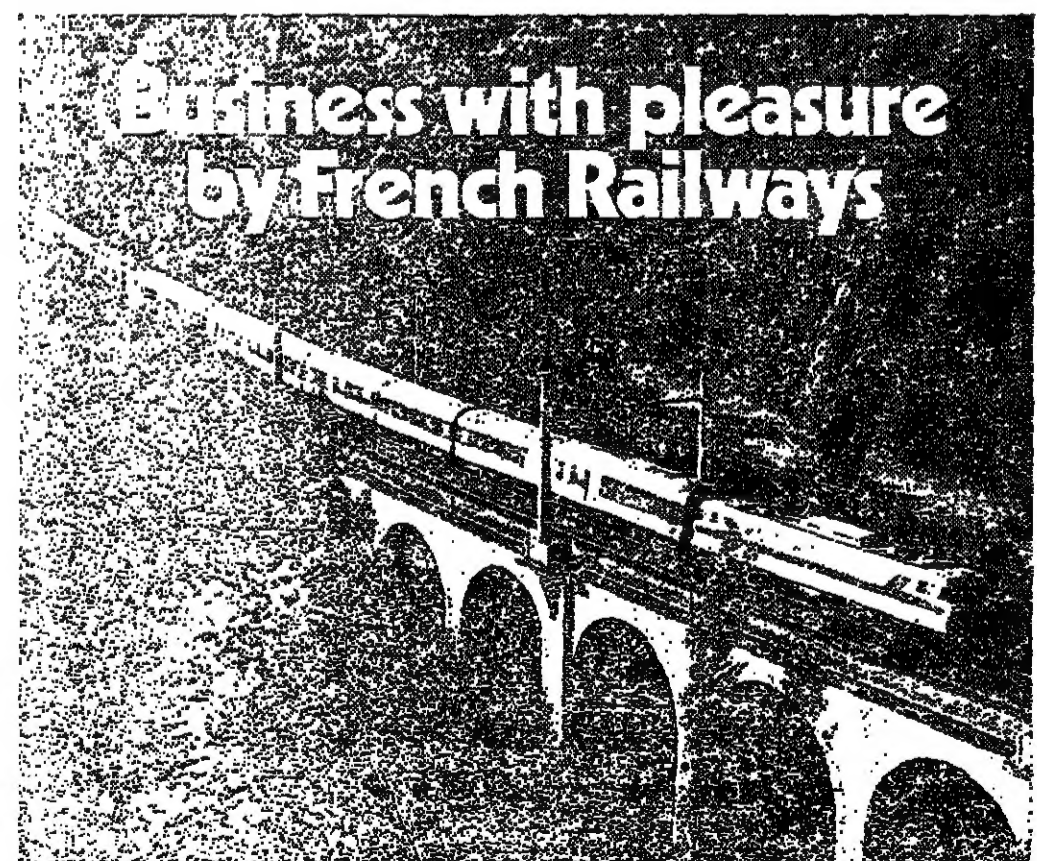
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## Moves to protect oil rigs

Experts and officials of seven nations will meet at the Ministry of Defence in London today to discuss the peace-time protection of oil rigs in the North Sea (our Defence Correspondent writes).

This is the second in a series of meetings. The first was held at The Hague on June 5.

Writ by Miss Redgrave

Miss Vanessa Redgrave, the actress, has issued a High Court writ against Associated Newspapers claiming damages for four alleged libels in two issues of the Daily Mail.

## Dead man identified

A man found dead in a flat at Devonport last week has been officially identified as Peter Garfield, a key witness in the trial of James Humphreys, a Soho club owner.

## Sale of drawings fetches high prices

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

The success of the sale of the Bernard Bouthakker collection of drawings at Sotheby's Mak was Wauy, Amsterdam, may spell the death of sales of Dutch and Flemish drawings in London.

Paid in the two-day sale, which finished yesterday, "Jack blessing the sons of Joseph", in pen and ink with additional grey wash in a later hand which made 40,000 guineas (estimate 30,000-40,000), or £3,125 with 16 per cent premium. It was bought by a Dutch dealer.

More surprising, perhaps, was the 45,000 guineas (estimate 18,000 to 30,000), or £2,978, paid by a French dealer, Bromberg, for a black chalk drawing by Jean Françoise Millet, "A shepherdess tending her flock". The only relatively unpopular works were those by Rembrandt's follower, Hoogstraeten's "The Presentation", in pen and brown ink, made 14,500 guineas (estimate 20,000 to 30,000) or £3,086.

Dealers from London were at the sale, paying prices that they might balk at over here. Colnaghi's acquired "A panoramic view with a castle and trees" by Antoni Waterloo at 14,000 guineas (estimate 6,000 to 8,000), or £2,980.

A mixed property Old Master sale at M & W was also well attended, totalling £240,758, with over 73 per cent sold. A Jacob Marrel still life of flowers went for 78,000 guineas or £15,542, and Richard Green paid 28,000 guineas, or £5,600, for a flower piece catalogued simply as Dutch School, seventeenth century.

Sotheby Old Master painting sale in London yesterday made £166,770, with 17 per cent unsold. The top price was £7,320 (estimate £3,000 to £10,000) was paid for a charming set of four illustrations to the Parable of the Prodigal Son by Hieronymus

Janssen. Cobon paid £7,150 (estimate £2,000 to £2,500) for "Shipping in a choppy sea" by Abraham van Beyeren.

Henry Spencer, and Sons, of Bedford, acquired some outstanding prices in their weekly furniture sale yesterday. A fine eighteenth-century Dutch walnut and floral marquetry display cabinet went for £11,000, and a Charles II stoneware mirror frame made £1,200.

A coin sale at Glendinning's yesterday included a Japanese Meisho 20 yen piece of 1870 at £4,200 (estimate £2,000); it went to Spink's. At Christie's South Kensington the star attraction of the day was a late-nineteenth-century Hotchkiss ornamental turning lathe, which made £1,600 (estimate £1,000 to £2,000); it is essentially a gentleman's toy for making carved objects from ivory, bone, and other hard substances.

At Christie's itself a routine jewel sale saw strong competitive bidding, totalling £53,450 when the top price was £10,000 (estimate £5,000 to £5,500) for a brilliant-cut single-stone diamond ring.

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# ME NEWS

## Police campaign in Leeds for stronger action against crime

By Evans  
Leeds Correspondent

Leeds police are proposing to change their public relations policy to regard as top priority the fact that many of their officers are frightened to walk about in the streets where people are frightened to go about; disorderly conduct, graffiti and civil disturbance are the order of the day, and we want to draw everyone's attention to the situation in the hope that we can prevent it from getting worse.

Mr. Male, chairman of the Police Federation, which is ranked up to chief of the national meetings at night. They are as part of the campaign for stronger action.

Mr. Male said at last night's meeting: "For a long time we have waited for the leaders of this country to condemn publicly the 'slide towards a lawless society. We have waited for members of the community themselves to condemn publicly a situation in which violence has become acceptable. We have waited in vain and we have decided to take upon our shoulders the onus of telling the public the unpalatable truth."

"We have become disillusioned with a society that acquiesces to violence towards the police, and we are fed up with a situation where our members performing their difficult, dangerous duties on behalf of the community are being kicked and stoned by gangs of children, being vilified in courts of law by members of the legal profession, and above all, not being able to rely on wholehearted support from all magistrates and judges."

He condemned the too liberal use of parole in the case of criminals sentenced for the first time. He said: "If we recall that most of the money was never recovered, then surely that old saying that 'crime does not pay' should be altered to 'crime does not pay'."

The next meeting in the campaign will be in Manchester. Mr. Male told me that the federation was seeking new legislation on shotguns and wants to prevent the age of criminal responsibility from being raised to 16 years, and to give magistrates more freedom to impose custodial sentences.

## Gift of land by Richard Burton

By Evans  
Leeds Correspondent

Mr. Richard Burton is buying land for a new experimental theatre in Oxford and plans to appear in a series of stage productions to support the project. The site is behind Oxford Playhouse and subject to planning permission, work is expected to begin shortly.

Mr. Burton has already given £100,000 towards the theatre appeal.

## Earlier start

By Evans  
Leeds Correspondent

Mr. Alastair Hetherington will take up his appointment as Controller, BBC Scotland, on December 1, because Mr. Robert Coulter, due to retire on December 31, will be unable to work until then for health reasons.

## 5 patients paid for pacemakers

By Evans  
Leeds Correspondent

The transactions were made because the area authority said it could provide on national health only pacemakers costing £300, which needed replacing every two or three years. It had agreed that if patients made up the difference in the cost they could have the £550 Lithium pacemaker, which would last them seven to 10 years.

Professor Sleight said that some time ago, he had unsuccessfully urged the authority to buy the more expensive model, which would save money on operations and make more beds available.

The lives of patients fitted with the cheaper device were in more danger than those with the more expensive type because "every time they undergo an operation for a replacement pacemaker to be fitted there is a small element of risk of rejection by the body."

A spokesman for both regional and area authorities emphasized yesterday that the cheaper pacemakers were perfectly safe and the lives of patients fitted with them were not in danger. The authority could not afford to provide the more expensive pacemaker in the present financial year. The situation would be reconsidered for next year.

The Department of Health said yesterday: "Health authorities may make charges only for appliances authorized by NHS regulations. No health authority is allowed to make charges for pacemakers and no authority can make a contribution towards providing privately purchased appliances."

In future NHS patients at the hospital regarded as suitable for the more expensive device can have one fitted only if they become private patients and pay for the device and the full cost of the operation to fit it.

## Councils are told to pay more for services

By Evans  
Leeds Correspondent

From Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent  
Eastbourne

To retain their independence local councils must be prepared to pay more towards providing services, an economic authority told the Local Government 75 conference at Eastbourne yesterday.

Professor C. D. Foster, head of the centre for urban economics, London School of Economics, said: "You cannot have local autonomy if you go on relying on increasing central government grants."

Addressing a thousand delegates to the conference, organized by the local authority associations, Professor Foster said the fundamental question must be decided whether local government was to be an agent of central government, or to respond to differences in local tastes and policies.

The traditional methods of racking financial crises in local government had been by recommending more services, increasing the percentage of government grant, or transferring expenditure from local to central government.

Of these, an increase in the percentage of grant had usually been the method adopted, and Professor Foster said that in the present crisis it was likely that the national government would be asked to increase its contribution to local government.

As an alternative, he suggested that the local council should pay more towards local expenditure. In 1974-75, domestic ratepayers paid an average of 2.49 per cent of their personal disposable income in rates. That proportion had been roughly the same for some years, but ratepayers paid an average of 2.49 per cent just before the last war.

"At the risk of saying something so unpopular as to seem ridiculous, the case should not go by default for meeting a housing crisis by raising more in local taxation as an alternative to more grant or the transfer of functions."

Professor Foster questioned why, when local government expenditure had been growing as rapidly as it had in relation to the gross national product, the burden of rates should have been held down so that in effect every year the ratepayer had been getting more in real terms from his rates.

Professor Foster concluded that the smaller the proportion of government grant, the more likely the local council is to weigh up the advantages of paying more in rates or local taxes for local services against other uses of his money. A move in that direction would seem to make more sense so far as differences in local expenditure are truly functions of differences in local tastes and policies.

## Judge criticizes framing of some indictments

By Our Legal Correspondent

Mr Justice Jones, in the Central Criminal Court yesterday criticized the way some indictments were framed, saying that time and money were being wasted.

He singled out for particular criticism indictments that started with a count of attempted murder but frequently, in the end, a plea of guilty to the offence of causing grievous bodily harm with intent was accepted.

Charges of attempted murder had to be dealt with in a different way, and had different administrative consequences, he said. It was not simply a matter of tidying up an indictment. Framing it correctly from the beginning would hasten the disposal of cases, cut the amount of time unnecessarily spent in court by witnesses, and cut the costs involved.

"It is a matter which has to be considered at the earliest moment, and could go back as far as the original police officer who decides what charge is to be preferred," he said.

## Ted Edgar banned

By Our Legal Correspondent

Ted Edgar, aged 42, the show-jumper, was fined £75 at Reading Crown Court yesterday, ordered to pay prosecution costs and banned from driving for a year for driving with excess alcohol in his blood.

## Heirs of ORTF strike as deputies heap scorn on new services

By Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Nov. 19

The continuing malaise of French state radio and television, which last year's reorganization evidently failed to eradicate, was brought home forcibly today by a strike on Radio France's first and third television channels in support of wage increases. Programmes were reduced to a minimum.

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## Spain hedges on referendum for Sahara

By Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Nov. 19

Spain may go back on her promise to hold a referendum in Sahara. It was learnt in Madrid today that the Spanish Government is considering a referendum on the future of the territory to be held in 1976.

Local publications also made it clear that, regardless of possible opposition at the United Nations, steps will be taken immediately to set up a caretaker administration with Spain, Morocco and Mauritania taking part. This will involve the appointment of two assistant governors, one each from Morocco and Mauritania, to serve with the Spanish governor of the territory to be decolonized.

Rabat, Nov. 19.—The 350,000 Moroccan peace marchers are being sent home, officials said today. The decision was taken after King Hassan's announcement on Monday that the western Sahara would be returned to Morocco under an agreement with Spain, the officials said.

King Hassan called off the march 10 days ago. The first wave of volunteers began moving southward towards the border on October 31. They had assembled in Tarfaya to begin the peace march.

Today's official statement reported that the first groups of 30,000 volunteers had returned to Tarfaya and had started leaving for home.

His radio broadcast on Monday, the King said: "Our Sahara has been returned to us. In the very near future, we will rejoin our compatriots in the Sahara."—Reuter.

## Threat that led to 200-mile limit

By Roger Bertold  
London, Nov. 19

It is not so much fear of the British as fear of the Russians, Poles and East Germans that has led the Iceland Government to increase its fishery limits from 50 to 200 miles.

The two-year agreement allowing British trawlers to take a certain amount of cod within the 50-mile limit, declared by Iceland in 1972, expired on November 13, and the latest round of talks has failed to produce a new agreement.

"If we had not extended the limit to 50 miles in 1972, the whole Russian fleet would have come in," Mr. Niels Sigurdsson, Iceland's Ambassador in London, said in an interview. "If we had not increased the limits of 200 miles in November, we would have had all the others, including the East Germans and Poles, as well."

Their modern fleets could have destroyed Icelandic stocks in two years, he said. Although international law is on Britain's side, Iceland's anxiety is understandable: fish and fish products account for about 85 per cent of its exports. There are no fuel, mineral or timber resources, and the country is too cold to grow cereals. Imports of food and raw materials must to a large extent be paid for by fish exports. About 14 per cent of the workforce in a population of 216,000 depends on fishing and fish processing.

Cod caught mainly within the 50-mile limit, is by far the most important species. In the 10 years up to the 1972-73 cod war, the average British annual catch was about 180,000 tons, roughly half Iceland's. The 1973 agreement did not fix a quota, but a figure of 130,000 tons was mentioned as the likely outcome of the agreed measures, including fishing zones, seasons and numbers of vessels. In fact Britain's catch last year was 147,000 tons, and may be less than 130,000 this year.

## Lisbon Cabinet reshuffle likely

By Our Correspondent  
Lisbon, Nov. 19

A Portuguese Government reshuffle could be imminent to appease left-wing groups, political sources said today.

They said ministerial changes were discussed at a Cabinet meeting last night, but a spokesman for Admiral Pinheiro de Azevedo, the Prime Minister, refused to confirm or deny the reports.

The main Lisbon morning newspaper, *Diário de Notícias*, quoted the Prime Minister as saying that Cabinet changes were possible "if everybody is agreed."

Sources in the Socialist Party, the majority of the Government, said Captain Tomaz, the Labour Minister, might be replaced as a concession to the Communist Party and other radical left-wing groups. Captain Tomaz has been the main target of industrial militants who last week organized a strike of Government buildings by striking building workers.

In return for replacing Captain Tomaz, the Socialist Party would press for guarantees from the Communist Party not to back attempts to overthrow the Government.

A test of the Communist Party's readiness to support the Government, in which it still has one minister, will come tomorrow when bakers plan a march on the Sao Bento Palace in what could be a repeat performance of the building workers' siege.

They say they will not leave Sao Bento until the Government has acceded to their demands for better pay and easier working hours.

The Socialist sources said the new Labour Minister could be either a Communist Party member or Major José Costa Martins, who held the post under the previous Government. General Vasco Gonçalves, Prime Minister, said today: "However, observers doubted whether the centrist Popular Democrats (PPD) would accept such a move. Both the Communist and the PPD have been calling for each other to be expelled from the Government for the past month."

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## EEC's farmers to seek price rises next year

By Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, Nov. 19

As the European Community begins to prepare for next spring's annual farm price review, representatives of Europe's 10 million farmers made it clear today they will be seeking a significant increase in their earnings next year.

At a press conference in Brussels, Sir Henry Plumb, the President of the EEC's farming organization COPA, said that agricultural costs and incomes in other economic sectors had continued to rise significantly in 1975. "The farmers' main concern is that their costs should be properly covered and that their incomes should keep broadly in line with earnings in other sectors," he said.

Most important of all, price reviews should begin to operate within a long-term framework and not be subject to "ad hoc changes according to the ephemeral whims of the prevailing political situation," he added in a clear reference to the current attitudes of the

By such a scheme.

## Poll indicates communist lead in Italy

By Our Own Correspondent  
Rome, Nov. 19

The results of a poll published in Rome today indicate that if a general election were called immediately the Communists would for the first time become the biggest party in the country.

Conservative politicians have been saying that the big Communist success in the June regional elections would not be repeated in a general election. The poll, however, suggests that the Communists would now do even better than in June while the governing Christian Democrats would do worse. These shifts would reduce the Christian Democrats' share of the vote to 33.7 per cent and give the Communists 35.7 per cent.

The Christian Democrats have led every government and been the largest party since parliamentary democracy was restored in Italy. Only 59 per cent of Christian Democrats, according to the poll, thought that the party could survive the shock of the June electoral results.

## Harassment of Czech writers condemned

By Our Own Correspondent  
Vienna, Nov. 19

The International Association of Poets, Essayists and Novelists (PEN) today called for an end to harassment of writers in Czechoslovakia and expressed solidarity with "hard-pressed" intellectuals there.

The resolution proposed by Pavel Ticháček and Gabriel Laub, the exiled Czechoslovak writers, was passed by the executive committee by 19 votes to nine, with five abstentions.

Three dissident writers sent a message to the PEN congress from Prague, regretting that they were unable to attend.

## Pop group fined for mockery

By Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Nov. 19

A Spanish pop group has been fined £10,738 without trial for making fun of General Franco, Prince Juan Carlos and other leading figures, it was reported today.

The four musicians were said to have "used phrases, adopted tones of voice and made mocking gestures disrespectful to the head of state," during a performance in a San Sebastian discotheque last Saturday.

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New York Packet  
January 13, 1784

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## OVERSEAS

## Naga leaders agree to call off revolt in return for amnesty

From Our Correspondent

Delhi, Nov 19. — The underground Naga movement will surrender its arms in the next few days as a result of an agreement reached with the Indian Government.

The Nagas have defied the Delhi administration since the transfer of power to India in August, 1947. They have now accepted that Nagaland is an integral part of India, and that Nagaland cannot be granted any special status.

On its part, the Indian Government has agreed to grant a general amnesty, suspend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, withdraw cases against Nagas under trial, release all political prisoners and rehabilitate the rebels who leave the underground.

The Army will continue to patrol the international border while the police will gradually take over the maintenance of law and order. The implementation of the agreement has already begun.

What differentiates this agreement from the earlier ones—and none was so comprehensive—is that Mr P. Z. Phiso, the underground Naga leader living in London, is

reported to have accepted it. He was contacted before his brother, Mr K. K. Phiso, agreed to hold peace talks. There are reports that he was kept informed during the negotiations.

The underground leaders are said to have raised the question of Mr Phiso's return during their meeting with Mr L. P. Sinoh, the state governor. He was non-committal but said that if Mr Phiso were to renounce his British citizenship and seek to return to Nagaland, as an Indian citizen, his request would be considered.

There remains the question of the 200 or so Naga rebels who went to China last year for training in guerrilla warfare and procuring arms. The underground leaders made no commitment about them but the Government made it clear that the security forces would take appropriate action against the group if it tried to recross the border.

Delhi also sent a senior official of the Home Ministry to Imphal, the capital of Mizoram, to offer general amnesty to the hostile Mizos. It appears that their response will depend on the treatment extended to the underground Nagas.

## Fromme plea over 'hidden witness' is rejected

From Our Own Correspondent

New York, Nov 19

Miss Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, accused of trying to assassinate President Ford in Sacramento on September 5, today had her appeal for the dismissal of the charge against her dismissed.

Judge Thomas MacBride rejected a defence move made on the ground that the prosecution was guilty of misconduct in concealing a witness who would have helped her case.

Mr John Virga, the lawyer appointed to represent Miss Fromme, told the court that the prosecution had withheld evidence given by a student who had been in Sacramento on September 5, and who had quoted Miss Fromme as saying: "It wasn't loaded anyway."

This evidence could have made the whole difference to the defence, he said, and the prosecution was bound to let them know about it.

Judge MacBride criticized the behaviour of the prosecution, saying that it was "incredible and almost prosecutorial conduct." But he ruled that the defence case had not been sufficiently prejudiced.

## High Court unseats Kenya minister

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, Nov 19

Mr Paul Ngei, the Kenyan Minister of Local Government and deputy leader of government business in Parliament, lost his parliamentary seat today. Three High Court judges in Nairobi upheld a petition asserting that he had been elected unopposed in October 1974 after causing an intended opponent to withdraw his nomination and threaten death.

Mr Ngei is the seventh MP but the first minister to be unseated by the High Court since the general election 13 months ago. The petitioner, Mr Raphael Mbono, said that Mr Ngei had threatened to kill him if he did not withdraw his nomination. Mr Ngei had stated that he could not ensure his safety. This was to force him to withdraw his nomination as a candidate.

Sir James Wicks, the chief justice, who heard the petition with Mr Justice Hancock and Mr Justice Sachdeva, said that the court accepted that the petitioner's allegations had been proved "to the hilt." They were satisfied that Mr Mbono had been threatened with death or injury.



The gesture: Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist Party leader, indicates to journalists that he is up to his neck in work. Speaking at a press conference in the Kremlin before beginning talks with President Leone of Italy who is on a state visit to Russia, he jokingly urged reporters not to misinterpret the gesture.

## FBI tried to make civil rights leader commit suicide

From Patrick Brown

Washington, Nov 19

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is on the rack this week, being investigated in its turn by the Senate select committee on intelligence. It may emerge from the ordeal as much of a wreck as the Central Intelligence Agency has become.

The chief scandal revealed so far is the lengths the FBI went to in the 1960s to discredit Dr Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader. The Director at the time, J. Edgar Hoover, was convinced that he was a tool of the communist conspiracy and when one of his staff said that Dr King might be replaced as leader of American Negroes he was delighted: "I'm glad to see the light has finally come."

The struggle consisted of bugging, blackmail, espionage and attempts to break up Dr King's marriage. Allegations of Dr King's infidelities to his wife were disseminated by the FBI, hotel rooms he stayed in across the country were bugged and in 1964 he was sent an anonymous letter suggesting that he should commit suicide. "King" it said, "there is only one thing left for you to do. You know what it is. You have just 34 days in which to do it." Dr King was due to go to Oslo to collect a Nobel Prize 34 days later.

The FBI witnesses today tried to argue that such incidents were very common and that no violence had ever been involved. Then Senator Hart produced more memoranda concerning attempts by the Bureau to foment discord between two radical groups, the Blackstone Rangers in Chicago and the Black Panthers.

He read a note approved by head office in Washington in which it was disclosed that an anonymous letter had been sent to the leader of the Panthers informing him that the Panthers

had "put a contract on him"—ie, had arranged to have him killed.

The memorandum said: "It is believed the above may intensify the degree of animosity between the two groups and might lead to reprisals." The memo also mentioned the possibility of sending a note to the Panthers, alleging that the Panthers had "put a contract" on them. The idea was rejected because the Panthers were not so violence-prone and might react with the desired ferocity.

The FBI witnesses defended the Bureau as best they can. They point out that Mr Hoover's obsession with a communist conspiracy faithfully reflected a national obsession going back at least 40 years before the investigations and harassment of the antiwar movement, and civil rights groups.

In the 1940s and 1950s Congress was driving the Bureau on to find evidence of the alleged conspiracy and the Senate cannot claim a degree of purity in investigating events 10 or 20 years old which it denies to the FBI.

However, the discovery of the extent to which the Bureau infiltrated and harassed radical groups, and the money and manpower it devoted to the effort has startled and shocked the committee, and perhaps a wider circle. It seems certain that the FBI's freedom will be severely restricted in future.

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## S Africans' wall of silence on Angola

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, Nov 19

South Africa continues to maintain a wall of silence on the reports which have been widely published overseas alleging its involvement in the Angola war.

When questioned on the validity of these reports, Defence Department spokesmen either reply with a firm "no comment" or invoke the Defence Act. This provides for a total ban on publication of any information concerning defence unless permitted by the Minister of Defence or a senior official.

For the moment the average South African has no idea what is being said abroad about South African involvement in Angola unless he buys a foreign newspaper or listens to the BBC.

However, no one can be unaware that something unusual is going on. Several newspapers, including the *Rand Daily Mail*, have appeared with blank spaces on their front pages in place of Angolan reports which had been suppressed. All of them have been demanding editorially that the nation should be told what is happening.

As the *Johannesburg Star* commented today, it is absurd to attempt to justify censorship—*as Dr Hilgard Muller, the Foreign Minister, did in London yesterday*—on the ground that the banned material is "just speculation" or "might cause worry". Dr Muller, the paper added, is having to justify a "policy of censorship" which does no good at home, and is palpably harming us abroad.

The use of the Defence Act to prohibit publication of foreign press reports has also been criticised by the two main Opposition parties. Mr Denis Dillies, a leading member of the United Party, said that the "futile attempt to deprive the South African public of reports which are freely available to the rest of the world can give rise only to rumours and uncertainty."

According to informed political and military sources there is now little doubt that South Africa is involved in Angola, but to what extent is not certain.

The sources point out that South Africa, with some other countries in the area, has a political commitment to prevent Moscow-aligned Communists gaining a foothold in southern Africa. Despite its avowed policy of non-intervention in the affairs of other countries, South Africa has hardly stood by and watched a Soviet bridgehead (which is how the left-wing Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola is regarded here) established in Angola.

## Leaders escape letter bombs in Australia

Sydney, Nov 19. — Strict security measures were being taken tonight to protect Australian political leaders after a letter bomb attempt on the life of Mr Bjelke-Petersen, Premier of Queensland, and the discovery of a similar bomb in the office of Mr Fraser, the caretaker federal Prime Minister.

The bomb sent to Mr Bjelke-Petersen exploded in Brisbane as it was being handled by mail clerks, seriously injuring two of them. The device sent to Mr Fraser in Canberra was detected by screening equipment and defused by the police. Had it gone off it could have killed or maimed anyone within 15ft.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen was campaigning for the general election in the central Queensland town of Mackay, about 750 miles north of Brisbane, when the letter bomb exploded. The police described it as an attempt to kill the 64-year-old millionaire, who is a member of the National Country Party and an outspoken opponent of the Labour Government of Mr Gough Whitlam, who was dismissed from office last week.

Both bombs were in thick envelopes and were addressed personally to Mr Bjelke-Petersen and Mr Fraser. They were posted in adjoining Sydney suburbs.

The police immediately began a big hunt for the senders of the letter bombs. Ballistics experts said, were the work of experts.

Tonight, doctors were trying to save the right eye of one of the injured men, Mr Keith Macfarlane, aged 24. Both he and Mr Garry Kross, aged 34, the

other man hurt, were reported to be in a satisfactory condition in hospital. The Brisbane explosion blew a 2in hole in a thick desk, scattered files and stopped clocks.

Within minutes the police and firemen evacuated 900 public servants from the Premier's executive building. Police and army bomb disposal experts checked the building before the staff were allowed to return.

Mr Kross, told reporters tonight from his hospital bed that the device looked like a child's practical joke toy when Mr Macfarlane opened the envelope. "I touched it with my finger and there was a flash and a whoosh," he said.

Mr Fraser was in Canberra at the time the letter bomb addressed to him was received, but he was not in the building where mail is sorted.

Strict mail screening led to the detection of the device, contained in an envelope bearing the words "Press Release Kit," hand-printed on it.

The police carried it away to a ballistics laboratory less than a mile away and refused it. They said later it showed expert work with commonly available explosive linked to a small detonator and a small mercury battery.

Australian Post Office tonight offered a \$20,000 (£12,345) reward for information leading to the apprehension of the sender of the bombs.

Superintendent J. D. Davies, assistant commander of police, said all mail deliveries to political leaders and their families were being checked. Post to Sir John Kerr, the Governor-General, was also going through strict screening.—Reuters.

## Cairo asks Russia for stay on debt repayments

From Our Correspondent

Cairo, Nov 19

A Soviet delegation is in Cairo for talks on repaying the payment of Egyptian debts to the Soviet Union. These are estimated at about £1,000m.

The 12-point plan of action led by Mr L. T. Gribanov, Soviet Deputy Foreign Trade Minister, is discussing the issue with Mr Ahmed Abu Ismail, the Egyptian Finance Minister, and other officials.

The talks are taking place against the background of lukewarm Egyptian-Soviet relations. Cairo is embittered by what it considers to be Moscow's reluctance to make good its military losses during the October 1973 war with Israel and also by the two countries' response to its request to delay the repayment of debts.

The Cairo discussions are the second round in less than six months. Dr Abu Ismail held the first round in Moscow in July, but the problem was not solved.

Well-informed sources in Cairo said Egypt had asked for the 12-point plan of action after which it would begin repaying the debts over 30 years. They added that Egypt also wanted debts arising from the supply of military equipment to be free of interest.

The results of the Cairo talks, observers believe, could be a decisive factor for the future of Soviet-Egyptian relations.

The Egyptians feel that Moscow should be sympathetic to their economic problems and because of the two countries' long period of cooperation and friendship.

## Israel tries to stop sale of British jets to Egypt

From Eric Marsden

Jerusalem, Nov 19

Britain's apparent determination to press on with negotiations to sell 200 Jaguar jet aircraft to Egypt, with United States encouragement, is being strongly criticised in Israel.

Mr Alon, the Foreign Minister, who returned last night from a European tour, said that if the deal went through it would be "a grave mistake, and an unwise and irresponsible act by a friendly country."

Answering a question by Mr Moshe Kol, the Minister of Tourism, Mr Alon said it was known that there was a contradiction between Britain and the United States on such questions and the matter was being taken up with Mr Kissinger, the United States Secretary of State.

After the first reports of the Egyptian request, Mr Gideon Rachman, the Israeli Ambassador in London, asked Mr Wilson, the Prime Minister, last week not to sell the Jaguars to Egypt. Mr Wilson is regarded in Israel as sympathetic to Zionism.

According to the newspaper *Masaruva*, Mr Wilson told the ambassador that he was under pressure from the United States Secretary of State to make the deal. He also was reported to have said that some of his colleagues, including Mr Coligahan, the Foreign Secretary, were in favour of the sale because it would help to fight inflation and unemployment.

It has been suggested in Israel that the United States would itself be selling arms to Egypt. It was not for opposition to Congress and the Jewish lobby.

Today's Israel newspaper *Haaretz* said the Secretary of State, Mr Carter, was saying at a dinner of the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce, that Britain would have to give priority to trade over moral considerations.

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## John Ehrlichman, one of former President Nixon's closest advisers, tantalizes Washington with a semi-autobiographical novel

## Fiction that tries to be stranger than Watergate fact

From Fred Emery

Washington, Nov 19

Did a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who became an ambassador, who became a former President over Watergate-type actions and a Caribbean-linked assassination? Indeed so, at least in a novel that is the talk of Washington, before it has even been published.

The reason is that the novel is not by the likes of Mr E. Howard Hunt of "plumbers" notoriety. It is by Mr John Ehrlichman, twice convicted of Watergate crimes perpetrated while he was one of the most powerful men in the land, as President Nixon's adviser on domestic affairs.

That he should write with such verisimilitude of recent events, veiling against libel, but giving a very shocking and perhaps, more plausible twist, makes the matter all the more intriguing. Mr Ehrlichman insists that it is all just a novel, assured, of course, of best-seller status. By initial

accounts there has been nothing like it since the play *MacBird* made President John Kennedy responsible for the murder of John Kennedy.

With his appeals against convictions pending, Mr Ehrlichman is now in New Mexico, bearded, and reported to be separated from his wife Jeanne, who unflinchingly attended every day of his trials.

The novel was first reported with fascination by Mr William Safire, the former Nixon speechwriter who continues his occasional apologies for the deposed President in his column in *The New York Times*. He is perplexed by the close-to-the-bone questions the novel asks, and confesses that there is no knowing how much truth there is to it.

Mr Safire relates that the CIA chief in the book actually carried out in the early sixties an assassination in the Caribbean at the order of a President now dead. Later a President whom the CIA man fears

comes to power, but the CIA man cultivates "a national security adviser with a German accent" who helps to protect the CIA.

Where Mr Safire is shy of giving away the whole plot, Mr Daniel Schorr of the *Columbia Broadcasting System* has plunged ahead.

The same day as Mr Safire's column appeared, he broadcast on national television a picture of the novel's *Eyewitness*. (The *Company* it is due to be titled) and brazened ahead with the identities of all those we have come to know from the recent power structure.

Mr Schorr also had this vicious scenario: The President wants to use the old assassin report against the dead President's political allies. The CIA man realizes this will drag him down, too. He corners the President as a dramatic *Camp David* meeting. His blackmail: the CIA knows all about the plan for raiding and bugging the opposition political party headquarters,

the White House "plumbers" and the telephone tapping of reporters and staff. He will trade this for the destruction of the CIA Assassination report. The President complies.

The questions being asked in the Washington political community are obvious. Why would Mr Ehrlichman suggest the President had prior knowledge of a bugging break-in? What else did the CIA man have "on the president, and perhaps others of his staff, that he was so powerful to succeed in this blackmail?

One thing seems clear, at least to Mr Safire. Mr Ehrlichman, who with Mr H. R. Haldeman sought, and failed to gain a last-minute pardon for the resigning Mr Nixon, seeks to get his own back on those he might feel abandoned him.

Mr Safire writes: "The author, spares nobody. Ehrlichman's 'President' Richard Monckton' reflects only the dark side of the leader he followed all his life.

## Greek junta leader blamed for Polytechnic killings

Athens, Nov 19.—Mr Pasachis Kanellopoulos, a former Greek Prime Minister, told a court today that Mr George Papadopoulos, then head of the military junta, was responsible for the clash at Athens Polytechnic two years ago in which 34 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured.

Mr Kanellopoulos, aged 73, a staunch opponent of the old military regime, was giving evidence at the trial of Mr Papadopoulos and others charged with responsibility for the incidents at the Polytechnic in November 1973 when troops

backed by tanks stormed the building to evict about 5,000 demonstrating students.

The accused face a variety of charges, the most serious being that of premeditated homicide which carries a possible death penalty. Mr Papadopoulos is charged with ordering the troops to fire on unarmed students.

Mr Kanellopoulos said: "Mr Papadopoulos was in a position to prevent the bloodshed. It is inconceivable to assume he did not have this power."

The trial is expected to last several weeks.—Reuters.

## Soviet spacecraft link up

Moscow, Nov 19.—The unmanned Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 20, launched on Monday docked today with the orbiting space laboratory, Salyut 4, Tass announced.

The docking was automatic, controlled by computers on board the two craft. Salyut 4, which has been orbiting since December 25, 1974, has been manned by two crews of Soviet cosmonauts.

Although the Russians have carried out automatic docking experiments with unmanned craft before, it was the first time an unmanned Soyuz had been linked with a Salyut.

There is speculation that Soyuz 20 may be on a refuelling mission which will be followed by a manned Soyuz to put a third crew on board the space laboratory.

The crew on Salyut 4 set a Soviet space endurance record of 63 days before returning to Earth on July 25.—AP.

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## Amin offer of compensation to 1,500 expelled Indians

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, Nov 19

President Amin of Uganda today said he was ready to pay an undisclosed sum in cash to compensate the 1,500 Indian subjects whose property was taken over after they were expelled from Uganda in 1972. He was speaking after discussions between Uganda officials and visiting representatives of the Indian Government.

The sum suggested was a "great" one, he said, but by paying it in cash, Uganda would "show" those people who claimed that the Uganda economy was unsound.

Informed sources in Uganda said the compensation proposal fell far short of the expelled Asians' valuation of their property, but it was thought that the Indian Government might be prepared to accept the total figure if it was clear that there was no hope of getting any more.

President Amin has also asked Mr James Hennessy, the acting British High Commissioner, to arrange for a resumption of talks on compensation for the large number of British subjects who were expelled from Uganda. Preliminary talks in September were adjourned.

## Dr Cassidy still held despite release order

Santiago, Nov 19.—Dr Sheila Cassidy is still being held in jail here despite an order for her release by a military prosecutor, the British Embassy announced today.

The embassy took the unusual step of issuing an official communiqué on the condition of Dr Cassidy, aged 37, who was arrested on November 1.

The communiqué gave the first news of Dr Cassidy for five days. It said a consular official had visited her in jail today, "Dr Cassidy's morale remains good and she appeared to be in good health", it said.

## Mr Ford passes initiative back to New York state

From Peter Stratford

New York, Nov 19

Mr Ford's statement that he would review New York's financial situation again next week tosses the ball back into the court of the New York state legislature in Albany. It means the legislature will have to take further action before the President will make a move himself. It also ensures that any action to save New York from bankruptcy will be a last-minute operation, with no certainty that it will come at all.

There was disappointment in New York today that Mr Ford still felt unable to take a positive stand on help to the city. But all was not felt to be lost, provided agreement could be reached in Albany on the taxes proposed by Mr Hugh Carey, the state Governor.

Officials in Mr Carey's office said it ought to be possible to get past the December 1 deadline without a crisis because of the existence of a "cushion" which would cover the city's needs for the first days of the month. The situation would become critical only on December 11. That would leave time for Congress to act after coming back from its Thanksgiving break. The cushion

would be provided again by unions' pension funds.

Mr Carey told reporters in Washington today that he was returning immediately to Albany and had promised to win approval of state legislation that would meet Mr Ford's conditions. He would be returning to Washington next week after doing this and wanted to meet Mr Ford then.

So far as Albany is concerned, Mr Ford's statement is a blunt refusal to accept the claims of state politicians that it was up to him to act first.

Ironically, it is the Republicans who have been making this point and are likely to be the most affronted by Mr Ford's stand. They have been strongly critical of the array of state and city taxes proposed by Mr Carey as well as the budget cuts, and are refusing to agree to them. Their support is needed as they control the state Senate.

The New York unions have been offered a seat on the Emergency Financial Control Board, which has been set up to oversee the city's finances. Another seat has been offered to the banks, so that two of the main actors in the fight to keep the city afloat are to be more closely involved.

## Rhodesia denies deal with Mr Nkomo

From Our Correspondent

Salisbury, Nov 19

The Rhodesian Government has denied that it has reached any outline constitutional agreement with Mr Joshua Nkomo, the nationalist leader.

Reports from Dar es Salaam that Mr Nkomo would become Foreign Minister under an agreement to be implemented by December 23 were described by a Government spokesman as being without any foundation.



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a Special Report:

by John Young

The author is Planning and Environment Reporter, The Times.

Charles Truak

## by Rex Needle

The corporation replies: "The scheme and its investment will lift the city centre to a new league, making it at least the heart of a region, with its people standing to draw many benefits from this great lift in status."

The Queen Street complex will be covered and air-conditioned. It will contain a department store, three variety stores, a fashion store, two supermarkets and about 80 shops. It will also incorporate pubs, bars and restaurants, and possibly a club and discotheque, with a cinema above the shops.

water has been argued over the schemes. The Corporation realizes that to dovetail the old with the new is a tremendous design challenge, and also a unique opportunity to secure a blend of old and new that respects the scale, the variety and the brick and stone frontages of the older city centre shops and offices, then positively improves the street scene by inserting new buildings of good and sympathetic design.

In other words, the Corporation has promised in principle that all of the good from the past will be pre-

A black and white line drawing of a traditional Chinese building with a tiled roof and a large tree in the foreground. The building has multiple windows and a prominent entrance. The tree is large and leafy, partially obscuring the building. The style is a simple line drawing, likely a sketch or a stylized illustration.

The corporation is aware of the competition it is creating. It says: "All this extra custom will give a great boost to the city centre's prosperity and all traders will stand to benefit."

The corporation also promises to be keeping its promise that expansion will not become a burden on the ratepayers. The centre, it says, will be built at no cost to them but its shops, restaurants, pubs and bars will contribute about £300,000 to the rate fund (at 1975 values).



The pattern for Peterborough is a programme of planned expansion; providing a new environment, new roots and opportunities for tens of thousands of people. In this city in building, this alliance of old and new, LBC bricks are playing a fundamental part in helping to provide the character, warmth and dependability traditionally associated with brick construction: economically and reliably.

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the main road, west from Peterborough towards Leicester. Peter catches the vital letters on orange background and green fall-claim a simple

in this case. Sutton; a call to a village which ended by the proachment of a mansion. Other villages elsewhere are said to be less polite. It is well that the time to site their side the main station is not the time that immediately to the traveler. In fact he is hard put to

succeed, he will find himself at one of those paths which lead to mysterious woods. In the mood to have no choice but to turn his car round and pick the way he

England, a rural community by-passed by time and motorways and still ploughing its ancient furrows. In fact, it is nothing of the sort.

Although this particular area of the East Midlands is still remote and little known, Sutton has for some time been a haven for well-paid industrialists moving away from the outer London "stockbroker" fringe and attracted by the idea of a country gentleman's existence within a Jaguar's reach of their factory or office.

The most vigorous protesters against change and development are precisely those who have benefited most from the area's expansion—among the banner-bearers and objectors at public inquiries it is often difficult to discern any farmers, let alone labourers, who want things to stay as they are.

So, in the case of Surton, it was the new executives who had studied the developers' original map, and concluded that the village was safe from industry. It was, and still is, a place of grey stone and gardens and an unspoken feeling that the twentieth century is best left alone to get on with itself.

No guidebook would automatically place it among its "top 20" most picturesque

villages. That was accepted by the older standing residents and relished by the newcomers.

The surprise came in a statement from the Peterborough Development Corporation last month. Blandly it observed that the number of new homes needed was greater than was estimated in 1970, because the average household size was turning out to be lower than had been assumed and because average densities were also lower.

Moreover, it added, it was now proposed that two new industrial areas should be created in the western sector, and not one, as originally planned. "Taken together, these factors create the need for another 350 acres of land to be allocated for urban use," it stated. Whereas in 1970 it had been estimated that about 1,480 acres would be needed for development up to 1985, the revised estimate was about

"Fortunately", it pointed out with unconscious irony, "land suitable for development is available within the western sector between the A47 and the Nene Valley railway line to meet all the expansion programme needs and to accommodate part of the continuing post-expansion growth". In other words the inhabitants of Sutton, instead of being secluded from

the new towns, as they are supposed, would find housing estates creeping across their green fields.


Mr Wyndham Thomas, the corporation's general manager, defends the change of plan as regrettable but necessary. He points out that every effort is being made to retain the character of the villages in the process of assimilation into the new city—Orton Longueville and Watervliet. Castor, Longthorpe and Werrington. The latter two, however, are difficult to decipher from any modern map of the area.

For the most part, the villagers have accepted their gradual loss of identity, and the new city is a surprisingly picturesque. Castor in particular with its dominating church and medieval atmosphere. Mr Thomas has undertaken measures to restrict through traffic from the new estates and to retain the villages as entities within the

But Sutton feels it has a separate grievance, in that it was never included in the original master plan and is now being used as the most convenient future growth point. A public inquiry into the corporation's compulsory purchase orders is provisionally scheduled for next February, when sparks seem certain to fly.


J.Y.

A black and white photograph of a traditional Chinese building with a tiled roof and a courtyard. The building features a prominent tiled roof and a courtyard area. The image is oriented horizontally but appears to be a vertical photograph rotated 90 degrees clockwise.

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Mr. John Stephenson will join Habitat Holdings in the new year as a main board director and Finance at the Forestry Commission on January 1 in succession to Mr P. Nicholls.

**GUS operates over 2,500 Mail Order and Retail Establishments in the U.K. and Overseas**



# Unique social centre may become focal point of leisure activities

by Howard Martin

A minor revolution is taking place in Peterborough among the purveyors of popular entertainment, the organizers of sport and recreational activities.

There were once six cinemas and two theatres, but these have dwindled to two cinemas, the Key Theatre and the usual sprinkling of bingo halls.

The city council recently acquired Leisure Centre, a one-time bowling alley which was not making money, to save it from private enterprise and more bingo. So 10-pin bowling still goes on, although on a reduced scale because much of the space had turned into a restaurant, disco and bar.

The main sports and entertainment centre is a sprawl

ing complex known as Wirrina (the word is aboriginal, means "a place to go") and it cost the city fathers a gold watch as a competition prize to name it. Many merely refer to it as "the white elephant" because the original idea, dreamt up by an engineer, cost £150,000 but has just been thrown a financial life-line of £15,000 by the city council to meet outstanding debts and keep the doors open.

The project, run by a board of trustees, is now profit-making but, despite the facilities it offers with dancing, eating, roller skating, five-a-side football or an evening in the sauna, those trustees are desperately trying to make ends meet, even to the point of pondering the

possibility of a full liquor licence and running part of the premises as a pub. Wirrina has already been in danger of closing down once this year, and with ratepayers becoming angrier with every demand, it is doubtful if more public largesse will come its way. A takeover by a national sports and recreation organization could well be on the cards, and the revenue from the rates would relieve the trustees and benefit the city council.

Sport has always played a big part in the city's history; indeed, visit Canada, Australia or even Singapore, and the nickname Posh means something. It epitomizes the footballing craze of this once famous giant-killing team, now languishing in the third division and hankering for

the second, if only to honour the promise made by their present manager, Noel Cantwell, ebullient Irish international, who may have said the wrong thing when he joined the club three years ago. The club's rise to fame and its tremendous runs in the FA Cup earned it this worldwide reputation.

But those were the days when fans were counted in thousands; today they come in hundreds. As far as attendance goes, football is only on a par with speedway because the Peterborough Panthers, who race in the second division of the British League, can attract as many fans on any evening they meet as those that click through the turnstiles at the London Road football ground.

Rowing, cricket, shooting, squash and gliding have their own clubs, and minority sports have no lack of interest.

But there is another sport on the horizon in the city that bred Olympic swimming star Brian Brinkley. A full size indoor heated pool is nearing completion on the river embankment and this will make Peterborough one of the main centres for swimming in the East Midlands and East Anglia. It will right the wrong which made Brinkley go to Bedford because of the inadequate facilities for training to the standard required for world class competition.

Meanwhile, the three townships which are clustering around the old city, are

creating their own centralized communities and recreations. At Bretton, first of these townships, a multi-purpose social centre known as the Cresset, is going up at a cost of £1.5m. This may well become one of the pivots of leisure activities for the whole of Peterborough.

Earl Fitzwilliam, joint chairman, told me: "One of the most exciting things about it is the tremendous range of interests it will cater for—sport, recreation, music, drama, art, religion, shopping, education. Almost any kind of activity you can think of will be happening in the Cresset."

The name came originally from a basket of fire kept continuously alight and placed at the focal point of

a medieval community. Around it the people gathered for their meetings and discussions; from it they took fire to their own homes to provide heat and light.

The modern interpretation is that the Cresset will stimulate the new communities as a place to do things and as a place to see what is going on. It will be a place to learn new skills and a place to have a drink, a place to worship and a place for entertainment.

Perhaps of all the things which have evolved from the expansion of Peterborough, the unique concept of the Cresset, which combines the energies and resources of so many differing bodies, statutory and voluntary, under one roof, epitomizes the life and throes of a new city.

Indeed, the concept will most certainly be adopted on a smaller scale in the two other townships of Castor and Orton.

Established recreational facilities have always been apparent in Peterborough. The Touthill Tennis Club, which has just lost its courts to the development corporation as a site for their new office block, is second only in longevity to Wimbledon, but a loss of venue has not claimed the sport.

The expansion is bringing with it a more varied calendar, to fulfil more interests and, with such a diversity of newcomers, any gap in the sporting spectrum appears to be filled overnight as new clubs and new groups spring up. There is no lack of space and if there were, the development corporation lends

ready ear. Indeed, one of their first main sporting projects was an 18-hole golf course in the Nene Valley which was designed by Peter Alliss and Dave Thomas and then completed in record time, with the first players teeing off this summer.

The Nene Valley, 10 miles long, will become the centrepiece of recreational and sports activity in Peterborough where architects have again blended the existing countryside with the new lakes, picnic spots and boating areas. It is also the site for a live stream museum on a street of track run by the Peterborough Railway Society which has already built an enviable collection of British and continental locomotives.

## Industry fosters community spirit

by a Special Correspondent

In a city not exactly saturated with arts and culture, the annual Perkins Industrial Concerts, held in the cathedral, is an occasion to be treasured, and one for which demand for tickets far outstrips supply.

The concerts began in 1963, when the main performance was Yehudi Menuhin, and have since included appearances by Sir John Barbirolli, Sir Adrian Boult, Moura Lympany, Daniel Barenboim and Vladimir Ashkenazy.

The programme featured the world premiere of the first symphony of Krzysztof Penderecki, the Polish composer specially commissioned for the occasion, which was broadcast live by BBC radio and recorded by EMI. The next year Bruckner's Mass in E Minor was also recorded.

Perkins Engines says the objective in sponsoring the concerts is "to project the company as the leading industrial employer in Peterborough, and to reflect the company's keen sense of civic duty—thereby aiding recruitment at all levels."

As the dominant economic force in the city, Perkins takes its social responsibilities seriously. Apart from providing extensive recreational facilities for its 10,000 employees, it also makes substantial donations to local sports clubs and associations.

Last year it sponsored a football match between Peterborough United and Preston North End, and it awards annual trophies at the Burleigh Horse Show and the East of England hunter trials. The company also contributed £1,000 to the cleaning of the cathedral's magnificent west front.

But Perkins discounts the idea that sponsorship is merely a form of advertising. "We do not do it just to promote the name of the company, but as a community venture," an official said.

The company's employees were very community-minded, he said. They were engaged in raising £10,000 for a bus for handicapped people, and had previously contributed £700 to pay for a new hydro-therapeutic swimming pool. Recently 50 of them had volunteered to



Checking out in Sainsbury's largest supermarket at Bretton, first of three townships being built around Peterborough.

walk 50 miles to King's Lynn

to raise funds for charity. The East Midlands Allied Press, which publishes a group of local newspapers and a number of national trade journals, also feels strongly that it has a duty to become involved in local affairs. "As a newspaper group, we like to see ourselves as people who can help things along," Mr C. W. E. Aldridge, a director of the group, said.

"Our role, as I see it, is to stimulate the provision of social and recreational facilities. But in a great many cases we also get involved in the organization." One of the company's best-known activities is its sponsorship of an annual steam engine rally on August Bank Holiday. Last year there

were more than 100 entries, said to be the largest collection ever assembled in one place anywhere in the world. Last May it put up the prize money for a £1,000 professional-amateur golf tournament at Burleigh. It also awards trophies for darts, bowling, golf, cycling, squash, football and road running, as well as a single-wicket cricket competition.

Its social involvement ranges from an annual Christmas party for underprivileged children to an award of honour scheme for public-spirited citizens whose achievements would otherwise go unnoticed. On one occasion its staff decorated the house of a family in financial difficulties and cooked its Christmas dinner.

There is no reason to suppose that business and industry in Peterborough are more generous and enlightened than elsewhere in the country, but in an expanding town where thousands of newcomers are being absorbed into an established community, it is particularly important that employers should be seen to be closely involved in social, sporting and cultural activities.

"For newcomers it is often something of a surprise to find all this going on," an industrialist commented. "Many of them come from big cities, especially London, where people have been conditioned to regard their home lives and their working lives as completely separate. If you commute 30 or 40 miles to and from work it tends to reinforce there must be a big gulf between your factory or office and the way you spend your evenings and weekends. The people you meet and so on."

"But in a town like this your workmates are likely to be your friends and neighbours at home. It's a difficult adjustment for some people to make. It may all sound a bit paternalistic in a way, but we like to think that in the end it benefits everyone."

Theatre in Peterborough, said the prophets of doom shaking their heads, has already died twice and can never succeed again. A dedicated group of people set out to prove them wrong and turned a dream into a reality.

On the evening of Friday, November 23, 1973, the curtain went up at the Key Theatre as the Bard—the company presented Twelfth Night—welcomed live theatre back to a city where it had been dormant for 14 years.

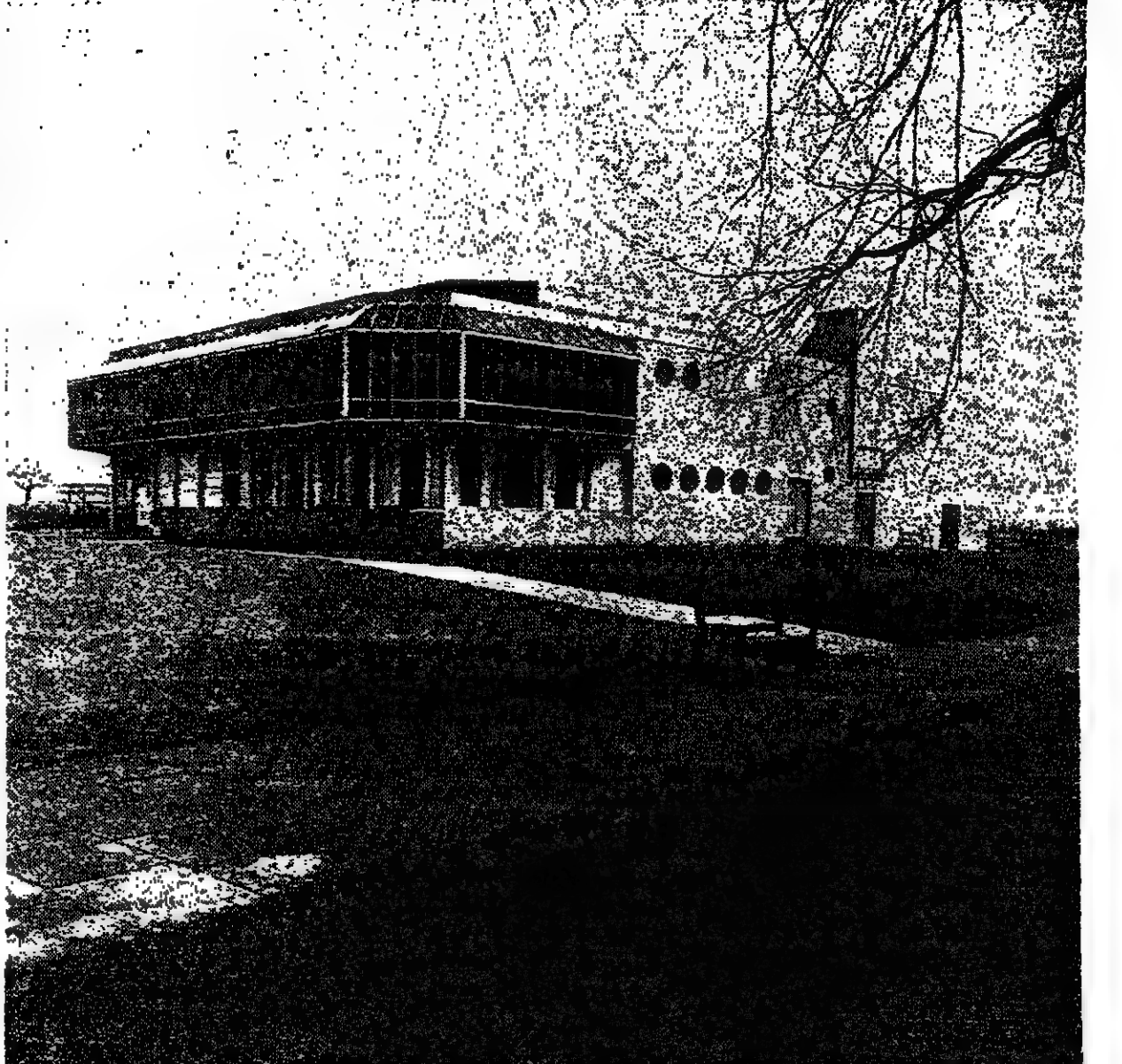
That opening night marked the culmination of six years of hard work by a committee which had produced a 400-page theatre considered one of the most advanced in the country. It cost £165,000 and has provided a new landmark for Peterborough, not only for the arts but also for the skyline. The extensive use of glass for the frontage, panoramic views of the River Nene, its curved roof (which also prevents traffic noise penetrating the flat roof of the auditorium) won the building a commendation by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The idea of a new modern theatre in a city where theatres had a habit of fading away was born when Mr Joseph Robotham and his wife, Ruth, moved to Peterborough nine years ago. They campaigned for the theatre and Mr Robotham eventually became the architect for the building.

But it was a slow start—a 12-month search turned up no suitable building for conversion. However, when a new, non-profit making organization planned to build its own theatre the city council offered one of the most valuable sites in the landscaped River Embankment for a permanent rent. It was ideal: close to the city centre, but away from other buildings. In the summer of 1971, the late Prince William of Gloucester laid the inaugural stone.

Mr Robotham, a keen theatre-goer, took time off to visit many other theatres in the country with the intention of providing the most attractive building possible. In the Peterborough auditorium he placed his seating as close to the stage as possible, to bring actors and audience together.

Then came the name: the Key was selected by a competition and the theatre emblem shows the cross key which are included on the coat of arms of the City of Peterborough, declared a municipal borough about a hundred years ago.



The Key Theatre, commended by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The money came through grants, donations, trusts, covenants and, of course, an overdraft. A cinema, coffee bar and club room are included, and the theatre can be used for lectures and private business.

The Key places great emphasis on its work for young people through a group known as The Key Perspectives, a team of drama specialists whose aim it is to extend the educational experience of young people, not only at the theatre itself but also through visits to local schools.

But the venture has not been without its critics. They have accused the theatre of being too highbrow, too low-brow, and for staging the wrong talent at the wrong time. Mr Patrick Boyd

Maunsell, the 29-year-old director, says:

"A theatre like the Key is more than the old-fashioned playhouse. It acts as a social centre as much as a place of entertainment. Being open seven days a week and providing facilities as well as having a conference room, it is used by many different groups from within the city and the surrounding area."

Mr Boyd Maunsell is a graduate in classics from Trinity College, Dublin, and attended the Arts Council theatre administration training scheme. Before moving to Peterborough he was for five years administrator of the Theatre Royal at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

"One of the big troubles is that Peterborough has no theatrical tradition to draw

upon", he says. The old Empire Repertory Theatre, demolished 14 years ago, was forced to close because of financial troubles. The old Embassy Theatre, which made money during the heyday of the twice-nightly variety bills, is now a successful cinema, staging only Christmas shows, amateur productions and concerts on an irregular basis. The result was that live entertainment had to be sought as far afield as Leicester, Nottingham or Cambridge.

With the new development of the city, Peterborough is able to attract other towns. Mr Boyd Maunsell explains: "An entertainment tradition will gradually build up over the years, provided good quality shows are presented on a regular basis. The myth that has to be

exploded at the moment is that there is nothing to be done in Peterborough; there is and there will soon be more."

He plans to present wide variety of plays, and classical concerts, and the occasional opera ballet which would also attract East Angles and the Midlands.

Mr Boyd Maunsell estimates that the main policy is carefully relate their work either inside or outside the building", says.

"They are in many assuming the role of a decent company at the theatre without having to conform to the restrictions of rigid repertory policy. Their work either inside or outside the building", says.

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## Where play is taken as a serious business

by Patrick Beasley

Donna Buck theorizes play with the eagerness of a youngster approaching tree climbing. Play, he says with a quiet conviction, is an essential element in human development and children must be taught its best, mature qualities.

The former London teacher, aged 41, with a diploma in sociology, was appointed Peterborough's first children's play officer five years ago.

He mulls over the city's three adventure playgrounds, development for a fourth, pioneering playgrounds and constant experiment, with endless satisfaction. "There is always something better that can be done, more avenues to be developed and more care to preserve space for play," he explains.

Mr Buck is proud that Peterborough has become a byword in other expanding centres for the way in which the quality of play has been developed and for the progress of its play schemes. The Fair Play for Children Campaign, now a national organization run with government backing, has taken up Peterborough's concept whereby a town or district council promotes the interest of children at play by pooling resources, staff and funds and by supporting initiatives from local groups to establish other play services.

The campaign has also accepted Peterborough's systematic approach to the building and running of play

areas and services and has since published its findings on the standards of play provision required to meet the wide variety of needs for children's play, drawn largely from material produced in the city to illustrate the principles.

Perhaps the most ambitious project is the establishment of the three adventure playgrounds in Peterborough which have now become targets for visiting city leaders wishing to expand along similar lines in their own communities. The first, on a one-acre site, is known as the Spinney and has during the summer holidays attracted up to 1,000 youngsters a week to climb trees, dig holes, shin up ropes or just sit and talk. Two others supplement the Spinney, both built along similar lines but each with their own individual characteristics, the Eastfield and Hobson's.

Mr Buck and his colleagues view play as the proper use of freedom, to be channelled, rather than directed, by leaders who must harness youthful enthusiasm between the shafts of outright permissiveness and a strict Victorian control. "Leadership is the most important single feature of an adventure playground," Mr Buck says.

He cites with some satisfaction that case of a camp building where the boys were given free rein to build their own hideaways with the surprising result

that many architects popped in with pads and pencils to make a few notes on their inventiveness for future use. The provision of such play schemes, he believes, is one of the most potent ways of helping a new and expanding community.

A fourth such adventure playground will be built at Bretton, one of the three new townships which are being linked to the existing city under the expansion scheme. Here, the youngsters who use it will come mainly from the London boroughs; children in a strange environment, who may never have seen such a project, as opposed to the boys and girls from the established community.

Bretton will be the acid test of his theory: that children can be kept happy, well absorbed in their spare time and involved in their own community; not isolated or estranged, but working together in the adventure playground programmes, holiday schemes and pre-school groups.

The Greater Peterborough Children's Play Council, which has attracted so much national interest, is a representative body of local agencies concerned with children's play. Its members come from local authorities, voluntary organizations, the teaching profession and members of the public who are co-opted for their individual knowledge or skills.

Its tasks are clearly defined: to set up playgrounds

and other play facilities, encourage the authorities to provide play spaces, raise funds, preserve open areas and maintain interest in play leadership. A formidable programme, but the play council has already demonstrated its effectiveness.

The principles are becoming firmly established with more than 20 new play schemes introduced this year. Parallel with this, however, comes a slowing down of the play group system, mainly because of a lack of systematic monitoring of their growth and development.

Mr Buck admits that he is getting signals of distress from some play groups and that there is little development of new groups in the area. However, he is undismayed because the 56 play groups which do exist are now being scrutinized more closely to find ways of strengthening them and promoting new ones. Finance is of the utmost importance in this sphere and although grants are available, rising overheads to meet the cost of equipment and staff add to the burden.

The play council does not attribute Peterborough's success in play projects entirely to the large expansion scheme. There was a generous availability of open space before the bulldozers moved in, when such development was in the hands of the city council, relying mainly on voluntary

workers for the running of pre-school play groups. What the play council has done is to coordinate the existing facilities, streamline the service and concentrate on new aspects of play.

Mr Buck emphasizes that his team is learning all the time and has already realized that over-organized facilities have their dangers; that children need a balanced variety of settings where they can play creatively, free from unnecessary restraint and dangers.

The play council takes care when developing new areas, looking at the environment as a whole and with the child's needs in mind, so that there is little development of new groups in the area. However, he is undismayed because the 56 play groups which do exist are now being scrutinized more closely to find ways of strengthening them and promoting new ones. Finance is of the utmost importance in this sphere and although grants are available, rising overheads to meet the cost of equipment and staff add to the burden.

The council operates with the motto "play matters", grave disadvantage.

constantly reviewing their needs and the play council accepts that they need to continue with policy, to introduce ideas, to maintain the ones and sustain a full range of play facilities and so to help to contribute to quality of life of families in the district now in the future.

Mr Buck says: "The process by which we learn about the how to adapt to the environment in which they live how to modify it to their own needs. The high-flown academic notion of what we are trying to achieve, but we must remember that although play is fun, it is also a business and children are deprived of it are the motto 'play matters', grave disadvantage."

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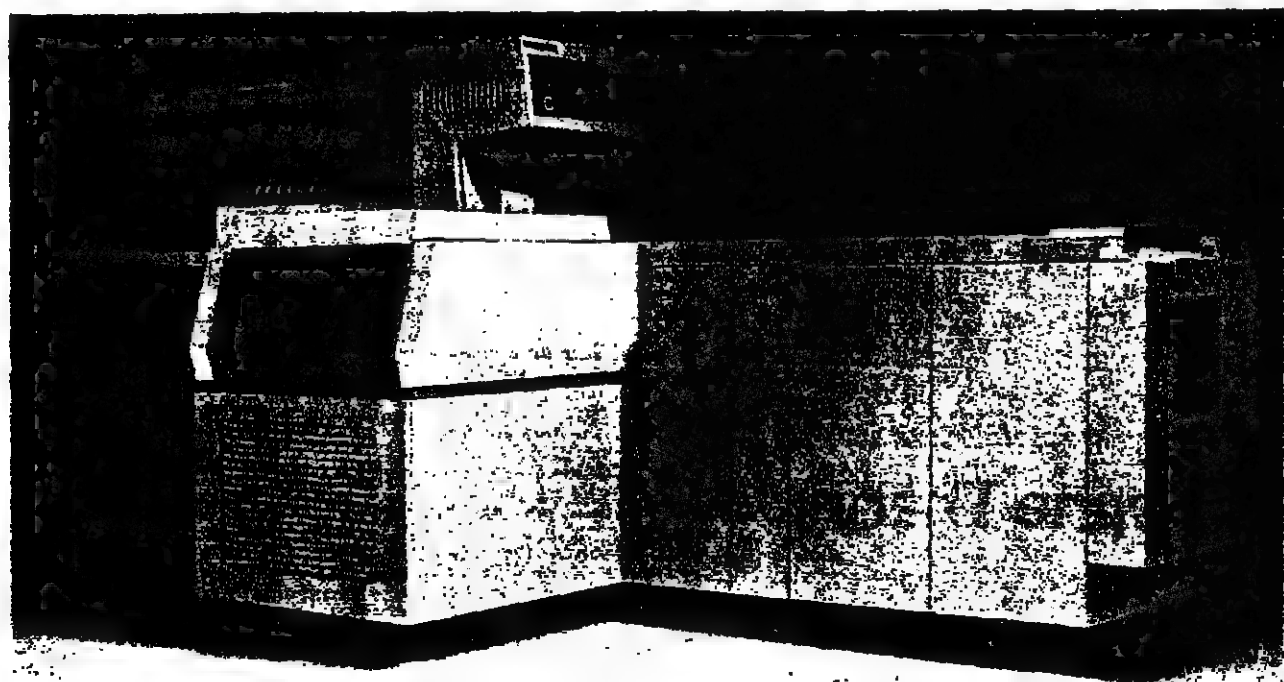
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Dylan Thomas by Augustin

**newscientist**  
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a cricket's eye view of him  
 going to the lavatory. "My  
 poetry is very dense and  
 mind needs time to swim  
 and relax", said Mrs Mu-  
 "but I have never used so  
 pieces for light relief in a  
 programme before. I  
 begged to make it enter the  
 Tucking into cheese and  
 afterwards, the accom-  
 gathered poets' names  
 ously. One said, that he  
 felt the 'programme' a  
 light: "Personally I like  
 best when I am feeling  
 good 'cry", he said. "I  
 also when I need cha-  
 accountants most.

Observation yesterday from  
 National Association of  
 nagers Action Groups, with  
 the Government is  
 rise, increases sales per  
 "negative" a program  
 "positive growth" P







Law Report November 19 1975

# TV contractors cannot include levy in costs

HTV Ltd v Price Commission

Before Mr Justice Mocatta

His Lordship refused to grant a declaration that sums known as "Exchequer levy" payable by television programme contractors are costs within the meaning of paragraph 39 of the Schedule (Price Code) Order, 1974. The declaration was sought by Harlech Television Ltd, television programme contractors, against the Price Commission.

Paragraph 39 reads "(1) ... where the price of a product ... does not afford a margin over total costs per unit of output ... of seven-tenths of the percentage margin ... an enterprise may increase the price of the product concerned to the extent required to give such a margin."

Mr Richard Yorke, QC, and Miss Genevieve Caws for HTV; Mr Thomas H. Blagham, QC, and Mr Christopher Bathurst for the Price Commission.

HIS LORDSHIP said that HTV were appointed television programme contractors, under a six-year agreement dated July 29, 1968, made between them and the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The agreement was made upon an agreed statement of facts obtained from the court a decision whether the sums payable by HTV to the court as "the Exchequer levy" fell within the words "total costs per unit of output" in paragraph 39. In cases output in which it applied the paragraph allowed a restricted increase in the price of a product.

Paragraph 39 of the Schedule (Price Code) Order, 1974, laid down that the contractors should provide for payments to the authority under two heads: (1) authority of fees; (2) amounts determined by reference to advertising receipts. These latter payments, although made to the authority were to be paid over by it to the Exchequer. They became known as "Exchequer levies".

The provisions of the Act were repealed and re-enacted in the Consolidated Independent Broadcasting Act, 1973. Apart from minor changes due to the statute dealing with independent sound broadcasting as well as with television, there were no material changes. Up to that date the amount of the Exchequer levy was in no way dependent upon whether the contractors made a profit or loss. It was simply a percentage levy on advertising receipts. The 1974 Act made a substantial change in that, apparently as the request of the various programme contractors. As from the coming into force of the Act, on June 23, 1974, the levy was payable on a new basis, namely 56.7 per cent of the contractor's profits as defined in excess of a "free slice", which for present purposes was £250,000. Profits were carefully defined in Schedule 1 to the 1974 Act, and by Schedule 2 there were transitional provisions to tide over any gap between June 23 and the alterations of

the contracts with the programme contractors, which the Act required to be made.

On June 8, 1974, HTV's original contract of July 29, 1968, which was for six years, was continued for a further two years, and on the same date a supplemental agreement was entered into. It was to operate from June 23, 1974, and gave effect to the new basis of the Exchequer levy and the statutory provisions relating thereto in the 1974 Act and its first schedule.

The Counter-Inflation Act, 1973, which set up the Price Commission, made provision for the issue by the Treasury of a Price Code which would restrict any prices in such ways as appeared to them to be appropriate for the purpose of ensuring that the provisions of the Act were implemented. That they could do by order or notice to the person concerned, who was obliged by the Act to give a certain length of notice to raise prices in circumstances in which the code permitted such increases.

The Price Code had two general principles and methods of price control; one was to limit the extent to which prices might be increased on account of increased costs and the other was to enforce the control of prices by a control on profit margins. Paragraphs 64 and 65 of the present code (originally paragraphs 57 and 58) dealt with prices and profit margins. Paragraph 64 provided that prices should be determined so as to ensure that net profit margins did not exceed the average level of the best two of the last five years of account of the unit to which the net profit margin control applied ending not later than April 30, 1973. That was known as the reference level. Paragraph 65 provided that "net profit margin" meant the margin of net profit expressed as a percentage of sales or turnover. "Net profit" meant the net profit, determined in accordance with generally accepted principles consistently applied by the enterprise concerned, which arose from trading operations within the control after taking into account all expenses of conducting and financing them, including depreciation and interest, but before tax.

For the purpose of establishing their reference level HTV made returns showing a profit after deduction of the levy, and in calculating the relevant profit for each subsequent period they had deducted levy. Other television programme contractors had similarly deducted levy in calculating their reference levels and thereafter their quarterly returns of profit margin. The Price Commission had accepted that and in 1973 wrote a letter to another programme company stating that the levy should be treated as a cost for the purpose of determining the net profit margin and reference level. They were then and until June 23, 1974, dealing with the levy on the old basis of a percentage charge on advertising receipts, but the commission took the view that the levy in its

new and present form was still properly treated as an expense within paragraph 65.

The Price Code in paragraphs 18 and 19 provided that prices within the control might not be increased unless there was an increase in cost. These were called "allowable" cost increases. Those were defined in paragraph 32 and, incidentally, included royalties. In July, 1974, and again in December, 1974, HTV gave notice to the commission of its intention to increase their advertising charges. In both cases HTV's supporting documents showed the levy as a cost, but as a "non-allowable" one. No objection was raised by the commission to those increases.

The present version of the code came into effect on December 20, 1974. Paragraph 39, headed "Safeguard against erosion of profit margins on products", was crucial.

On July 9, 1975, HTV notified the commission that they intended to increase their advertising charges (called their rate card) in accordance with paragraph 39 so that the increased charges would afford a margin of seven-tenths of the percentage margin at April 30, 1973. In calculating the total costs per unit of output which was one hour of television transmission, HTV (a) included the levy as a cost, and (b), in calculating the amount at which the price increase was justified under paragraph 39, assessed the amount of the levy as the amount that would be payable if the price increase were implemented. In other words there was a grossing up. HTV's full claim involved an increase of 16.28 per cent without grossing up the figure claimed involving an increase of 4.11 per cent.

The commission notified HTV that (a) they took the view that the levy on profits was not a cost for the purpose of paragraph 39; and (b) in any event grossing up was not permissible by reason of paragraph 52, which provided that with certain exceptions prices might not be increased in anticipation of cost increases.

The question was whether, upon a true construction of the Price Code, HTV must as a matter of law be entitled to include the sum (the Exchequer levy) payable by them as a cost for the purpose of calculating the total costs per unit of output under paragraph 39 (1).

The proper approach was to be found in the Court of Appeal decision in *GECC v Price Commission* ([1975] 1 C.R. 1), where it was decided that under the Counter-Inflation Act, 1973, Parliament had entrusted original findings of fact to the commission and not to the courts.

The agreed statement of facts, exhibited samples of the annual audited accounts of five television programme companies, and while in every case the levy was deducted before arriving at the profit before taxation, there were certain differences in the way in which the levy was treated.

The samples showed a variety of approaches by the different firms of auditors and accountants

Queen's Bench Division

## Novel on English women in India wins Booker Prize for 1975

By Philip Howard

The 1975 Booker Prize for fiction has been awarded to Mrs Ruth Praver Jhabvala for her novel about English women in India, *Heat and Dust*.

Mr Angus Wilson, chairman of the judges this year, gave her the trophy and cheque for £5,000 at a dinner in London last night. He said: "The Booker Prize is awarded to persuade as many people as possible to read the novels of the winter and summer runners-up, so that an imaginative society may get a glimpse of the enchantment, the wisdom, and the extra dimensions to life, that reading good novels brings."

Mrs Jhabvala was born of Polish parents in 1927, and came to England with her family in 1939. She was educated in England and took her degree in English at London University. She now lives in Delhi, having married an Indian architect in 1951. She has written eight novels and three volumes of short stories. She collaborated with Mr James Ivory, the director, in writing a distinguished film, *Shakespeare Wallah*.

Heat and Dust (John Murray, £3.95) is a superficially simple short novel, with many layers and an assured craft of construction and narration beneath its surface ease of reading. It is the story of two English women: Olivia, a member of the Raj, and her husband's granddaughter who visits India today, ostensibly in search of Olivia, her grandfather's first wife.

Both are intensely English, yet each decided to stay in India through a power that seemed stronger than herself. Their stories are related but not intertwined. Mrs Jhabvala conveys the feeling of India with its squalor, its miseries, its beauties, its enchantments, the enticements of its paradox, quietly, but absolutely. In some, the book is a cool, at times alarmingly restrained, indictment of what is lacking in the West, as much as a critique of what is present in the subcontinent.

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*(continued)*











## Concorde fares pact eludes IATA

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

International Air Transport Association airlines which have been meeting in Nice and Cannes since October 7 to set air fares from April 1 went into recess yesterday without any agreement on what rates, including Concorde super-fares, should apply across the north Atlantic.

They did, however, complete 80 per cent of their work, and IATA said yesterday that it was hoped the outstanding fares would be agreed at individual traffic conference meetings during the next two months.

The negotiations in the various fares areas of the world were left as follows:

North, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Hawaii: Agreement completed for long-haul routes, but discussion on shorter routes still outstanding.

Europe, Middle East and Africa: Conference to be reconvened in Geneva on December 2.

Asia and South-West Pacific: Formal agreement completed, with increases in fares averaging 5 per cent.

North Atlantic: Negotiations recessed, with conference to be reconvened in January.

Mid Atlantic: Conference recessed for the outcome of north Atlantic negotiations.

South Atlantic: Formal agreement completed, with a 3 per cent increase on fares and a 10 per cent surcharge over first-class fares for Concorde travel.

Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia, South-West Pacific: The size of the area and the complexity of the various international sub-areas required additional time for consideration by the airlines.

Trans-Pacific routes: Certain preliminary work completed, but the meetings have been recessed to allow time for further study. Conference expected to reconvene early in the new year.

Agency conference: Plans for a higher rate of commission to travel agents for the sale of airline tickets were developed, but could not be completed "due to a limited number of airline positions which require further time for solution".

## Sample survey of retail trade

Retailers will shortly be asked to cooperate in a sample survey of their business by the Central Statistical Office, on behalf of the Department of Trade.

Individual companies have been selected and they will be asked a range of questions about their trading in the coming year. The inquiry will provide the Government with statistics on stocks, capital expenditure and sales of each type of commodity, which will be used in compiling the national accounts.

## Business appointments

### Accepting Houses Committee's new chief

Mr L. H. L. Cohen, a director of Hill Samuel, is to succeed Mr Charles Clark, who is retiring as director-general of the Accepting Houses Committee on March 31. Mr Cohen will be resigning his directorships in Hill Samuel as from February 1.

Mr R. W. Wright has become a director of Davy International.

Mr M. W. Stephenson is to resign as a director of Charter Consolidated on December 31 and take up an appointment as technical director of Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines in Zambia.

Mr E. J. Stucke has been made director responsible for technical services from January 1.

Mr Henry Marks, chairman of Smith Bros, is to retire at the end of February and will be succeeded by Mr Anthony Lewis.

Mr S. M. Smith has relinquished his post as group managing director (operations) of Drake and Whitt.

Mr E. L. S. Weiss, formerly group managing director (finance), becomes sole group managing director.

Mr Ian Carruthers has been

## N Sea boundary extension moves may add to areas for exploration

By Roger Vielvoe  
Energy Correspondent

Vast new areas of the northern North Sea may be opened up for oil exploration as a result of attempts by Britain and Norway to extend the present agreed boundary line northwards for a further 120 miles.

The agreed median line between British and Norwegian waters stops just short of the 62nd parallel, about 12 miles north-east of Shetland.

Surveying experts from both countries are trying to devise a formula for pushing the line further north into the Norwegian Sea. Work has begun and is expected to take several months.

Once the experts have agreed, meetings will be held between officials of the Norwegian and

British oil ministries to translate the formula into a line on the map.

Initially, only Britain and Norway are involved in the discussions, but before any line can be finally agreed, the Danish-owned Faroe Islands, be brought into the talks.

The northern extension of the median line must also take into account the position of the Danish-owned Faroe Islands. The Danes could expect to drive a V-shaped salient into British waters, reaching an apex on any proposed new dividing line between British and Norwegian territory.

Agreeing an extension of the median line is likely to be a lengthy business. Once the line is fixed the area can be divided up into blocks in the same way as other parts of the United

Kingdom continental shelf.

North of the 62nd parallel, almost all the ocean is at least 500ft deep. Although it is feasible to drill in these depths, producing oil from these areas is beyond the reach of present technology.

Britain still has to settle offshore median lines with the Irish Republic in the Celtic Sea and France in the Western Approaches. Discussions are in progress with the Irish government while the United Kingdom and France have agreed to international arbitration.

Investigations into the British and French claims for the Western Approaches are not expected to be completed before the autumn of next year and the independent arbitration court will probably not present its findings until early 1977.

## Community sees signs of industrial upturn

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Nov 19

Industrial production in the European Community as a whole is stagnating at a level some 13.5 per cent below the peak reached towards the middle of 1974, according to the latest monthly economic report published by the European Commission.

The continued downward trend in Britain, Italy and the Benelux countries has been more or less offset by the gradual upturn in Germany and France.

The Commission's report discerns some signs of recovery in chemicals, man-made fibres, textiles, clothing and consumer durables, especially motor cars in Germany. It believes that the building and construction industry should also begin to improve.

The Commission sees little hope, however, of any real improvement in total production before the end of the year, given the unfavourable situation in the iron and steel industry and the uncertain outlook in other sectors.

Peter Norman writes from Bonn: Fresh evidence of a recovery in the West German economy came today in a report from the West Berlin-based German Institute for Economic Research that the country's gross national product rose by a real 1.5 per cent on a seasonally adjusted working day basis between the second and third quarters of this year.

The institute cautioned that this figure doubtless exaggerates the true increase because of technical factors and suggests a rise of 0.5 per cent is nearer the mark. It is none the less the first upward movement in real g.n.p. in Germany for a year.

These figures are important as they always precede by some weeks the official quarterly calculations of the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. Today's report also shows that despite the quarter to quarter upturn, West German gross national product in the three months to the end of September was still around 4.5 per cent below that of the third quarter of 1974.

Mr Barnett pointed out that these considerations would not apply when they saw the expected upturn in the economy.

He said he was under no illusion about public expenditure: "For 30 years we in the United Kingdom have enjoyed regular improvements in personal living standards combined with regular increases in public expenditure that overall we have not earned."

Mr Barnett thought it was easy to talk about cuts if one did not use the price provided from a particular item of expenditure, and easy to talk of unemployment when, on any reasonable mathematical probability, it was likely to be someone else who would be unemployed.

## Shell-Gulf seeks nuclear aid

By Roger Vielvoe

General Atomic, the joint Shell/Gulf Oil nuclear venture, is seeking help from the Energy Research and Development Agency in Washington, to keep its troubled high temperature nuclear reactor business alive.

Mr G. A. Wagner, senior managing director of the Royal Dutch/Shell group, said yesterday that General Atomic was in close consultation with the agency "on the subject of support for continuing development of this reactor technology."

"This is a problem area in which we are frankly not yet clear what lies ahead", he told

financial analysts in Zurich yesterday.

General Atomic last month announced that its last contract for a high temperature reactor station in the United States had been ended and it would not seek any new commercial business.

It had been clear from the start that the development of the high temperature reactor would be a long term and expensive business.

"However, the costs and technical problems of commercialisation have turned out to be even greater than foreseen and these have been exacerbated by a fall in demand resulting from reduced forecasts for electricity consumption."

## Treasury backs cuts in spending

By Our Political Staff

Governmental determination to cut public spending was stressed again yesterday by Mr Joel Barnett, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury at the biennial dinner of the Institute of Actuaries in London.

"In the past we have always failed to take full advantage of upswings because of the scarcity of resources for exports and investment," he said.

"The Government is determined to see that that will not happen this time. We will reduce the share of resources taken by the public sector, so as to protect the economy from constraints and bottlenecks which could threaten us again."

He said they were well aware that if public expenditure was not restrained there would be an excessive demand for finance which would result in an unacceptable increase in the money supply.

Nevertheless, he indicated that cutbacks were not likely in the immediate future. "With unemployment already at desperately high levels, with the economy working below capacity, large-scale expenditure cuts now would add yet more misery to tens of thousands."

Mr Barnett pointed out that these considerations would not apply when they saw the expected upturn in the economy.

He said he was under no illusion about public expenditure: "For 30 years we in the United Kingdom have enjoyed regular improvements in personal living standards combined with regular increases in public expenditure that overall we have not earned."

Mr Barnett thought it was easy to talk about cuts if one did not use the price provided from a particular item of expenditure, and easy to talk of unemployment when, on any reasonable mathematical probability, it was likely to be someone else who would be unemployed.

Mr Barnett thought it was easy to talk about cuts if one did not use the price provided from a particular item of expenditure, and easy to talk of unemployment when, on any reasonable mathematical probability, it was likely to be someone else who would be unemployed.

## 'Squeeze' by Brussels on S Korean textiles

From David Cross  
Brussels, Nov 19

South Korea is under pressure from the EEC to conclude new arrangements for its textile exports to the Community this month or face new border controls next year.

A sixth round of negotiations is to open here tomorrow and if no agreement can be reached the Community is likely to introduce unilateral safeguard measures from the beginning of next year to protect its textile industry.

The Community has already introduced a number of import curbs on Korean textiles after the failure of earlier rounds of talks, but these are due to expire at the end of the year.

During the past year, the Community has concluded restraint agreements with India, Pakistan, Hongkong, Singapore, Malaysia and Macao. Other negotiations with Japan, Mexico, Colombia and Brazil are in progress.

The negotiations which are being held under the rules of the Multifibre Agreement, if the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) are designed to lead to a gradual liberalization of trade while at the same time protecting Community producers against market disruptions.

They have been taking place at a time when the European textile industry is facing its gravest crisis of recent years. According to latest estimates compiled by the European Commission, there are now 800,000 textile workers on short-time or fully unemployed out of a total workforce of some 3,200,000.

Hongkong delegation leaves: Two British members of a three-man European Community delegation left Hongkong yesterday for home after failing to reach agreement over the colony's knitwear shipments to the Community.

## Soviet deal with IBM rejected

New York, Nov 19.—The United States Commerce Department has rejected International Business Machines Corporation's application to supply a computerized reservations system, valued at more than \$11m (about £5.5m) to Intransit, the Soviet travel agency, IBM disclosed.

"The United States Government concluded the system could not be adequately safeguarded from unauthorized use," an IBM spokesman said in response to questions, but declined to discuss further the reasons for the refusal to grant IBM an export licence.

In Washington, an official of the Commerce Department's office of export control would not explain the rejection.—AP

—Dow Jones.

## Esso Italiana taking action against former chairman

From John Earle  
Rome, Nov 19

Esso Italiana is suing Signor Vincenzo Cazzaniga, its former chairman, in connection with activities in what is generally known as the Italian oil scandal, a company spokesman said today.

The board decided on November 10 to initiate what, under the civil code, is described as an "action of responsibility" to determine whether he exceeded his functions and, if so, to claim damages.

Press reports from the United States have alleged that Esso's Italian subsidiary made payments of at least \$10m (about £4.5m) to ENI (the Italian state oil corporation) in the years before 1972 when Signor Cazzaniga was chairman.

Contributions running into

millions of dollars are also reported to have been made to political parties, though the company has pointed out that this is not illegal.

In an interview published in today's issue of the weekly magazine L'Espresso, Signor Cazzaniga denied that he had acted incorrectly.

Payments to ENI, he said, were made because ENI had incurred greater costs than expected in building at Panigaglia, near La Spezia, a re-refining plant for liquid gas supplied by Esso from Libya.

The issue, he added, was now under arbitration between Esso and ENI.

He had already made clear to the Italian parliamentary commission investigating the so-called oil scandal that there was no corruption in the contributions made to political parties.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Lessons from East Europe for the British motor industry

From Mr H. Radice

Sir, It seems to be a well-established tradition that any East European manufacturer who succeeds in gaining a foothold in Western markets is immediately accused of "dumping".

The reason that RABA is able to win a sizable order from Vauxhall is given in your article (November 17): that the Hungarian firm now produces some 50,000 rear axles per annum. An output level as high as this affords, not surprisingly, a considerable reduction in production costs. This level has been reached thanks to the vehicle industry specialization.

It is also astonishing that it should be regarded as proof of intent to dump that RABA is planning an increase in capacity greater than the likely CMEA demand. How is a trade-dependent country supposed to

develop its economy if it does not install capacity geared to exports? Does the British motor industry invest only in line with likely British demand? After years of capitalism that East European firms were not sufficiently export-orientated, they are now apparently too export-orientated!

The British motor industry would do better to respond to RABA's success by imitating more effectively the policies of modernization and international specialization which have provided the basis for it. Given its recent track record, it seems doubtful if private enterprise is capable of doing this.

HUGO RADICE,  
Research Fellow,  
The University of Sussex,  
Centre For Contemporary  
European Studies,  
Brighton BN1 9RF.

### Current cost accounting: some further considerations

From Mr F. M. Redington

Sir, At this juncture, when the accountancy bodies have endorsed the Sandilands recommendations for current cost accounting (CCA), though with reservations, it may be helpful to point out that a simple addendum to CCA would not only meet the Accountants' doubts, but should be welcomed by the Sandilands Committee itself. It would turn an excellent, but incomplete, success into a complete success.

The Times correspondents have been making heavy weather of what is at bottom a simple issue. The very simplest of examples brings us straight to the heart of the matter: £1,000 is kept in the till throughout the year. Under traditional methods and under Sandilands' CCA methods this is a non-event: no profit, no loss. But by the Accountants' current purchasing power (CPP) route there is a loss. If inflation as measured by the retail price index (RPI) is 20 per cent per annum, the loss is £200.

Which is right? £200 loss or none at all? All but committed pariahs will feel the tension created by the question. There is a case for either view. Much of this tension disappears, however, if we specify the purpose behind the question. There would probably be widespread agreement with these conclusions:

(a) If the purpose is taxation, the answer must be that there is no loss. This is not because that answer is "right" but because that is the content of British tax in 1975. Our tax is not reduced because of the erosion in value of our savings certificates nor increased because of the erosion of our mortgage. In this case CCA gives the better answer.

(b) If, however, the purpose is financial truth, then there is no doubt that the company has lost £200 of purchasing power. CPP gives the better answer.

(c) For other purposes, such as dividend distributions, both aspects may have some relevance.

At the heart of the problem, therefore, there lies a confusion as to purpose. But methods of accounting should not be "true and fair" for some particular purpose only. They should be "true and fair" for all purposes. The objective must be to present all

the material facts in the simplest way and without prejudice to the various possible questions.

The CCA system satisfies these objectives admirably, except that it stops one small, but vital, step short of an acceptable answer: it does not include in its presentation the important figure for erosion of capital. Fortunately, the remedy is quick and simple: to extend the final summary statement which shows operational and holding gains, to include erosion.

At this point a more formal definition may help. "Erosion" may be defined as the mean shareholders interest over the year multiplied by the rate of inflation over the year. For such a broad concept precision is unnecessary and it is immaterial which index is used for inflation—the RPI is as good as any.

Convenient examples are in the lengthy Appendix to Sandilands. The summary statement for year 10 (page 358) with a little condensing gives:

Operational profit	£285
Holding gain	61
Total gain	£346

But over that year the shareholders' interest rose from £2,282 to £2,508 (mean £2,395) and the RPI rose from 135 to 160, as shown on page 359. Thus the erosion was:

2395 x .25	=	598.75
135		
If we are not to prejudice the various questions the way those results should be presented is:		

Operational profit	£285
Holding gain	61
Less erosion	444
Effective decline	£283

I have not chosen a special case. The aggregate of the four effective years illustrated in the Appendix (years seven to 10) gives the same picture of a company whose capital deterioration is outpacing its operational profit. It is surely a serious criticism of a report entitled *Inflation Accounting* (and a justification of the Accountants' reservations) that in its own illustrative example such a vital aspect should go unnoticed. It is no defence that the addition is easy to make: all the more reason for making it.

That is the essence of my case: that the small step of adding "erosion" to the facts presented changes CCA from a partial to a complete system and reconciles all the conflicting views.

Yours faithfully,  
F. M. REDINGTON,  
10 Ross Walk,  
St Albans,  
Hertfordshire.

From Professor D. R. Myddelton

Sir, A number of points have not been sufficiently stressed in the debate about inflation accounting.

(1) Current cost accounting, as proposed by Sandilands, is not really a method of accounting for inflation at all, since it fails to recognize that inflation is a monetary phenomenon. CCA is a system of current value accounting, which would produce figures very different from historic cost accounting even if there were no inflation.

(2) About two thirds of the companies replying to Sandilands' questionnaire thought the best method of inflation accounting was current purchasing power accounting: the method proposed by the professional accountancy bodies after long and detailed consideration. But Mr Sandilands himself made it clear last week that political considerations played an important part in the CCA recommendation. The so-called Inflation Accounting Committee apparently thought that no government would be willing to accept CPP accounting for purposes of taxation or price control. That is not a very convincing accounting argument.

(3) There is no evidence to support the assertion in the Report that CCA's operating profits may well provide a useful guide for shareholders in forecasting the future profits of most companies. In fact operating profits and holding gains are interrelated and cannot meaningfully be separated. Nor does it make sense to pretend that the past can be linked to the uncertain future in such a naive way.

(4) CCA's method of guessing the value of net assets is highly subjective and would use industry indices of doubtful relevance which have not even been published yet.

(5) Many companies are already using CPP and the rest could easily do so straight away. During the worst inflation in the country's history, can we really afford a "transitional" period of at least another two years, during which time a steering error is supposed to sort out all CCA's practical difficulties that Sandilands failed to solve, and many cases failed even to recognize?

Yours faithfully,  
D. R. MYDDELTON,  
Professor of Finance and Accounting,  
Cranfield School of Management,  
Cranfield,  
Bedford, MK43 0AL.

## FENNER PRODUCES RECORD PROFITS AND ANNOUNCES A RIGHTS ISSUE

- Final dividend increased to 3p per share
- Rights issue of 3 for 10 at 90p
- Turnover up by 37% to £52m
- Pre-tax profit increased by 23% to £5.5m
- Earnings per share up from 11.67p to 13.68p
- Forward planning envisages further growth in 1975/76

	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971
External turnover	£50,000	£40,000	£27,268	£21,662	£20,607
Profit before taxation	5,527	4,501	3,242	2,639	2,665
Profit after taxation	2,347	1,951	1,732	1,480	1,473
Earnings for ordinary shareholders	2,227	1,773	1,557	1,387	1,384
Dividends to ordinary shareholders ("gross")	834	745	456	621*	619*
Retained profits	1,393	1,028	1,101	766	765
Shareholders' funds	18,051	15,676	11,644	10,453	9,312
Earnings per share (pence)	13.68p	11.67p	11.56p	10.30p	10.33p

To: The Secretary, J. M. Fenner & Co. (Holdings) Ltd., Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 2BA. Please send me a copy of the Report and Accounts of the Group for 1975 on publication.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Fenner**

The Fenner Group is principally concerned with the manufacture of power transmission equipment, industrial conveyor beltting, fluid seals and package handling conveyors.

## WOOLWORTH Interim Report

Nine months ended 31st October, 1975

Salient figures and comment from the unaudited statement of profit of the Company and its subsidiaries for the nine months ended 31st October, 1975, with comparative figures for the previous financial year:

12 months ended 31st January 1975	9 months ended 31st October, 1975	1974	1975	% increase
£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
461,697	Turnover (excluding value added tax)	310,821	392,161	26.2
33,421	Trading Profit	18,437	24,147	31.0
30,649	Profit before Taxation	16,124	21,706	34.6

■ Sales are in line with budgets. Net margins, however, are somewhat better than had been expected. The possibility of a further reduction in the volume of consumer spending makes it advisable to continue to take a cautious view of the very important final quarter.

F. W. WOOLWORTH AND CO., LIMITED  
Woolworth House, 242/246, Marylebone Road, London NW1 6SL



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# Woolworth's latest recovery tack

been a fine year for the retail sector, in which Woolworth provided the best yet, the 75 per cent pre-tax in the figures leaves the figures at £121.7m—can be its face value, for costs pushed the figure down by 10 per cent.

of this year's cost—had worked the end of the first there is more to the nt in trading marper cent in the first 8 per cent in the ter—than that. With 1 per cent during the or to bring the nine-advance to 26.2 per group records that gains have been but the benefits of discussed change in nix do at last seem-king through, with higher sales of the in audio equipment, is and textiles.

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Mr. Steve Owen, chairman of F. W. Woolworth: better than the competition.

the end of next year. The shares look vulnerable with the support of asset-backing effect by the size of capital commitments.

Final: 1974-75 (1973-74) Capitalization £3.42m Sales £7.49m (£5.35m) Pre-tax profits £1.99m (£2.74m) Earnings per share 18.3p (67.1p) Dividend gross 3.66p (9.45p)

J. H. Fenner Goes for a rights

Fenner's buoyant trading results for the year to the end of August again show how well pockets of the engineering industry are withstanding the recession.

Pre-tax profits 23 per cent better at £5.53m, coupled with the announcement of a 15p dividend, impressed the market and the shares climbed 15p to a new high this year of 134p.

The second half has been more difficult than the first, and declining orders have prevented cost increases being fully recouped in higher selling prices with a consequent deterioration in margins. But if the fluid-steel division has been pulled back by the motor industry—particularly in Holland where the setback has been "severe"—the coal industry's

The market may have boiled over slightly since mid-afternoon Tuesday, but it was looking firm enough in after hours trading yesterday and it still looks firmly underpinned. As we move closer to the 400 mark on the FT index we may yet see considerably more two-way trading. But for the short-term the question is simply how much more there is in the market now given that the last few days have produced some fairly handsome profits outside the leaders. Notably, of course, the property sector has enjoyed a spirited recovery, helped both by confirmation of financing arrangements for Capital & Counties and ATP and also by expectations that today's statement from Land Securities will take a relatively optimistic line.

As for the Queen's Speech, that was hardly expected to produce anything very surprising. More significant for the market will be the reintroduction, probably in the next few days, of the Bill for the nationalization of the shipbuilding and aircraft industries—a move which shares in the companies affected have already started to anticipate in this account. Even so, the shares of many of the shipbuilders remain at very substantial discounts to previously indicated compensation terms in view of the increasing problems facing shipbuilders in the wake of order cancellations. Whether or not the market is taking too pessimistic a view remains to be seen.

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new lease of life and North Sea activity have given conveyor belting demand a fillip and to a lesser extent power transmission as well.

But Fenner has not been spared pressures from other directions in the past year. Higher working capital requirements took short-term borrowings up from £2.3m to £6.9m, which more than doubled interest charges to £16,000 and cash flow was not enough to finance the £4m capital expansion programme.

But Fenner stresses that medium-term facilities are sufficient and that the proceeds from the three-for-10 rights issue at 90p to raise a net £4.35m will be used to support capital investment in the United Kingdom and United States, particularly in conveyor belting.

The issue should go well with the discount on the rights price of 33 per cent at 134p, the fact that Fenner has said it will raise the dividend to 9.23p gross next year where the yield on the rights price is 10.3 per cent and the two basic shareholders in the company, Renold and David Brown Holdings who each own just over 11 per cent, are virtually certain to take up their share.

Final: 1974-75 (1973-74) Capitalization £2.2m Sales £52m (£37.9m) Pre-tax profits £1.3m (£4.5m) Earnings per share 13.68p (11.67p) Dividend gross 7.69p (7p)

Plantation Holdings Two strategic stakes

Plantation Holdings can thank its recent diversification efforts for the fact that its interim results are not even worse than they are. It was clear that plummeting commodity prices were going to mean a sharp drop in Malaysian plantation profits, but as far as rubber is concerned, losses have been exacerbated by restrictions on tapping.

In the United Kingdom, meanwhile, with the notable exception of a £112,000 turnaround into a loss of £47,000 by video communications, the group has remained relatively strong. Light engineering in particular has continued to benefit from earlier reorientations to show an improvement from £24,000 to £40,000.

Orders here have been falling but the expected second-half deterioration should be offset by some recovery in video communications and, more importantly, a better performance from plantations where prices have improved.

But the real interest in PH continues to rest in other areas. On the one hand, the company has spent the last 18 months cutting back its spending and building up liquidity to the point where it can talk of being "poised for further expansion"—a clear hint that it is on the acquisition trail again.

On the other, the near-30 per cent Hutchinson stake continues to overhang the market, its disposal made doubly difficult by the uncomfortably large 26 per cent also held by Pahang Consolidated, at present not regarded as a likely bidder.

Since the doubled fish-half profits would only just cover a maintained dividend, it is not hard to see why the shares should have fallen by a quarter to 28p over the past year, where they yield 8.5 per cent. But that is discouraging a great deal of uncertainty, and given the potential for recovery in the plantations as world economies pick up, the shares could prove a good buy at present depressed levels.

Interim: 1975 (1974) Capitalization £10.7m Pre-tax profits £0.71m (£1.2m) Dividend gross 1.16p (1.16p)

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# The 'cod war'—a costly dispute nobody wants

With the breakdown this week of talks over fishing rights between the Icelandic government and Mr. Roy Hattersley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Britain and Iceland appear to be moving towards a new "cod war". Yet it is a dispute which almost certainly neither government wants.

Any escalation in the "war" must be viewed with concern, not only by Britain's trawler fleet, which in Icelandic waters provides regular employment for more than 3,500 trawlers, but also by another 17,000 British people dependent upon the trawlers for shore-based work. Government exhortations that Britain must maintain food resources must be heeded, and it recognizes that in this context fish are valuable.

Britain's fishermen landed 850,000 tons of wet fish last year, worth £136.5m. Of this, about 400,000 tons came to England and Wales, and the rest—mainly herring—to Scotland.

The total catch of cod by the British fishing fleet from all waters was 180,000 tons last year, and of this some 147,000 tons were caught from Icelandic waters. The north-east Arctic accounts for 99,000 tons, the Faroes produced 18,000 tons and the rest was caught in home waters. This year the Icelandic catch will be less than 130,000 tons.

Cod is the main species of fish eaten in Britain and last year 45.4 per cent of the quayside value of British-catch cod was accounted for by catches from the waters around Iceland. The British Trawlers Federation says that as such limitations now cover most northern fishing grounds it has not been possible for Britain to make up the shortfall brought about by the most recent agreement with Iceland by fishing in other areas.

Contrary to general belief, there are no catch limitations, in terms of quotas, contained in the two-year agreement made with Iceland in 1973, which expired on November 13 and which Britain continues to observe. The position was that in the event of a catch of 125,000 tons a year, six zones were outlined, five of which were to be fished while one, in rotation, was "rested".

Iceland was convinced that the zoning operation would mean that Britain would not reach even 125,000 tons and so did not insist on a quota. In fact, instead of the 125,000 tons of fish, Britain's trawlers last year produced 147,000 tons from the zones.

This year the figure looks like falling to less than the forecast 140,000 tons largely because numbers of trawlers with licences to fish the zones have been taken out of service for economic and other reasons and the agreement with Iceland does not permit them to be replaced by other vessels.

Just over a year ago there were 489 vessels in the British deep sea fleet, 362 registered with the BTF sailing from Hull, Grimsby, Fleetwood, North Shields and Liverpool, and 127 registered with the Scottish Trawlers Federation working out of Aberdeen and Granton.

There are now 253 working from the English ports, and 99 from the Scottish ports, a total drop of 137 vessels.

Catch limitations have played their part but the principal reason for the decline in the fleet is economic. Fuel prices have risen in the past 18 months and are still rising. On

fuel alone, a trawler to the distant water fishing grounds will spend £4,000 a trip.

The cost of gear, nets, ropes and the like made from man-made fibres which come from petrochemicals, and thus from oil, has rocketed. Losses of gear average out at £2,000 to £3,000 a trip, without taking into account saws cut by Icelandic gunboats.

It is estimated that, on average, distant water fishing costs with wages £1,500 a day, so that a 10-day trip means that £15,000 has to be earned before a profit is made.

In unilaterally declaring a 200 miles limit, Iceland, it is felt, has jumped the gun by at least 100 miles. The fishing nation of the world are confidently expected to agree to 200 miles at the next United Nations Law of Sea Conference at New York in March.

Until that time, however, Britain's trawler fleet will remain depleted. No new vessels have been ordered for the past year and until trawler owners know exactly where they will be permitted to fish they will not be able to order new vessels, because it is on the fishing grounds that the design of vessels required depends.

The BTF has called on the Government to impose a 200 miles limit by Britain by the end of 1976, whether or not international agreement has been reached in March at New York. It is not suggested that this should be a unilateral decision but a decision arrived between Britain, her EEC partners, and other interested states like Norway. It is felt that any move towards a 200 miles limit for Britain should follow an amendment of the EEC's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

The United Kingdom's 200 miles zone, it is suggested, should be divided into two strips, an inner 100 miles exclusive zone and an outer 100 miles open for EEC vessels but closed, except by agreement, to third parties.

The existing Common Fisheries Policy of the EEC, it is claimed, was made for the benefit of the original six member states and did not take into account "the new world of 200-mile limits or the United Kingdom's predominance as the major fishing nation".

The BTF says that the question of access to waters must be decided, then, a high proportion of the labour force must be employed in ways which enable modern technol-

ogy and capital investment to contribute to value-added the all important difference between the potential output of an unaided peasant and the output which is required on average to sustain the vastly higher standard of living which we all expect.

Of course, there may come a time when virtually all of what we now think of as the main industrial activities will be 99.9 per cent automated; and then we shall have to find alternative arrangements for distributing the income from the sales of the output of such processes to the generality of consumers. But we are still some way from facing that crisis of success; and there are anyway many straightforward solutions.

The second, and perhaps slightly less platitudinous, proposition is that there must be a mechanism whereby the incomes of users of services are recycled to become the incomes of the providers of them. Moreover, it has been argued that to depend too heavily on compulsory confiscation by government of the income of the consumers for distribution to the producers (who are, of course, in aggregate the same people), and too little on direct payment for goods and services, then the mechanisms which ensure that production is oriented to the wants of consumers and which induce the suppliers to produce will break down.

These propositions are what lie behind current very proper complaints that too large a proportion of Britain's labour force has been diverted out of market-based occupations, into tax-based occupations. A society dominated by producer lobbies, which work through a captive government, has no incentive to increase the productivity of producers or to pay any attention to the preferences of consumers.

Yet, unless it is believed that there is no limit to the amount of income that can be confiscated in taxation without affecting the readiness of citizens to provide goods and services for one another and that there is some alternative method to the market of discovering consumer preferences—or that there is some higher criterion than consumer preference—for the purposes of determining the pattern of production, then it is inevitable in the circumstances envisaged that resources will be used inefficiently to produce what

# The right to guess and the freedom to fail

I am often asked: "But if government does not prop up traditional industries such as textiles, car makers, plane makers, shipbuilders, machine tools, to say nothing of railways, coal-mining, agriculture, administration and the other more obvious forms of low-rolling, where do you imagine that people will be employed in the future?" To which I commonly reply: "I am an economist (wherein I somewhat flatter myself, being in reality at best an economic journalist), not an entrepreneur".

This reply, I find, does not always satisfy, though to me it seems definitive and, with reasonable luck, should be a conversation-stopper. It does not satisfy because generations steeped in the conventions of governmental omniscience, not to say omniresponsibility, do not readily take the point.

It is supposed that at worst I am seeking to evade the question and at that best I am referring the question to some Chief Entrepreneurial Adviser who is presumed to inhabit Whitehall, suitably knighted and decked out with grand-father clock, wall-to-wall carpets and a secretary.

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### Stock Exchange Prices

## Prices close mixed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 17. Dealings End Nov 28. § Contango Day, Dec 1. Settlement Day, Dec 9

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